

Towson, MD February 28th, 2023

Chair Brian Feldman
Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan
The Senate of Maryland
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Support for SB 0271

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and fellow committee members:

My name is Anisa Kalil and I am a current 9th grader in the Baltimore County Public School district. I am also a Maryland Civic Education Coalition member.

Civic engagement has been a part of my life ever since elementary school.

Though the topics we discussed back then were not as influential as the advocacy that I participate in now, my elementary school years led to my running for several more positions that greatly opened my eyes up to what it means to be active in my community. For example, in my 8th grade year, I was elected the Chair of the Baltimore County Junior Councils, representing 30 middle schools of the BCPS school district.

Over the years, I have come to discover more about how larger scale leadership leads to larger scale impact. It is for these reasons and principles that I believe this piece of legislation, Senate Bill 0271 would be in the best interest of our state; more specifically, each school district. The Seal of Civic Engagement would create more of a drive for students to well-exceed the standard amount of service hours set by the state and go beyond how service learning is typically viewed by some, as a 'requirement.' In addition, the motivational standards set by this bill also include the rigorous coursework available to students, such as Advanced Placement (AP) history and government courses and school based extracurricular activities that further engage students in what it is like to be involved in their communities civically.

The passage of this bill would also lead to more awareness spread from students to their peers, siblings, and even parents on how they can get involved in their communities. I believe that it is important to promote this bill so that students across the state of Maryland can continue to grow more active through civic activities such as voting, volunteering, and campaigning for candidates in elections.

I believe that the passage of this bill would lead to great outcomes throughout our state and lead to more recognition of the various civic experiences for which students participate in. I urge you to consider favoring SB 0271. Thank you very much for your time.

Best regards,
Anisa Kalil