



March 28, 2023

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Chair Senator Feldman, Vice Chair Senator Kagan, and members of the committee,

The Baltimore County Parent and Student Coalition, Inc. is submitting UNFAVORABLE written testimony for HB 175, Baltimore County Board of Education-Student Member-Voting and Training.

The primary reason for our opposition to HB175 is due to **conflict of interest**.

Members of the Board of Education are prohibited from being current BCPS employees due to conflict of interest as stated in the BCPS Ethics Policies series 8360 through 8366.

The Student Member of the Board is a dependent in the public school system and relies on BCPS employees for evaluations, grades, and letters of recommendations for employment or college applications. With the passage of this bill, the Student Member of the Board will be voting on a budget that has direct implications to their teachers, advisors, and the superintendent which is a conflict of interest. [BCPS Ethics Policy 8363](#)

Second, there has been no compelling reason to grant full voting rights, specifically on fiscal decisions, to the Student Member of the Board who serves one term and is typically under the age of 18 years old.

We would also like to note that the BCPS Board of Education at their December 21, 2021, meeting voted NOT to include increased SMOB voting rights to the Legislative Priorities 2022. Nine of the twelve members, including the student member, did not vote in favor of adding SMOB voting rights to the Legislative Priorities of 2022.

This year, the current Board of Education did not hold a vote on HB175.

We ask you to respect the decision made by the majority of the BCPS Board of Education members who are locally elected and experienced officials.

Last year, HB 192 did not receive a unanimous favorable vote from the Baltimore County Delegation.

This year, HB175 did not receive a unanimous favorable vote from the Baltimore County Delegation.

We appreciate you taking the time to read our comments and are available for questions.

We encourage you to vote UNFAVORABLE on HB175 at this time.

Sincerely,

Amy Adams, BCPASC President

Mary A. Taylor, BCPASC Vice President

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