

Good afternoon everyone, I want to thank all of you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Madison Messick, I am a student at Kent County High School. I am here in support of House Bill 402 and altering the membership status of the Student Member of the Board. I am in the second semester of my junior year and have been a part of the Student Government Association my entire high school career. In the last two and half years, I have heard one repeated request and that is to be heard. So when I was asked to testify for this bill, I jumped at the chance to be a voice for those students. Many of us, myself included are wondering, why would this bill be opposed? Plenty of other counties in Maryland allow their Student Member of the Board voting rights, why is Kent County any different? Our county may be small but it is full of passionate individuals. I have watched many of these passionate students be advocates and provide priceless input on major decisions that heavily impact our students. Decisions without those students opinion would negatively alter the school school. The individuals that are elected may be some of the most qualified people that offer opinions on a system they participate in every day. Who knows more about school than a student? Every student deserves a voice in their education and a voting Student Member of the Board will provide that for students. Being able to witness representation that values the student body and relates to our experiences is essential for a successful school system. All we want is to be heard. I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 402 and create a Voting Student Member of the Kent County Board of Education. Thank you all again for this opportunity and I am here for any questions you may have.