



**Senate Bill 762**  
**Education, Energy & the Environment Committee - Friday February 16, 2024**  
**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools. The Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016, advocates for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland. The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) advocates for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide.

MOST, MD4CS and MEC support Senate Bill 762 as a common sense, fiscally neutral approach to encourage students to participate in civics education and for schools to provide expansive opportunities for students in civics. For students to truly understand the world and for our democracy to continue, we need young people to practice citizenship and build knowledge of the systems and processes by which we engage actively engage as citizens. Unfortunately, as we juggle the complex mandates and requirements for students to graduate, civics doesn't always get the full attention it deserves within the curriculum. For this reason, we also support House Bill 50 which would establish a Commission on History, Culture, and Civics education which would make recommendations to further improve the depth and breadth of curricular and extracurricular opportunities for students.

Students benefit from recognition programs in strengthening applications for post-secondary opportunities and scholarships. Schools benefit from recognition programs in communicating their value to family and communities. Everyone benefits when we have educated and involved citizens participating actively in our society.

On behalf of MOST, MD4CS, we thank Senators Kagan and Ready for sponsoring Senate Bill 762 and urge the committee to provide a favorable report.

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