



Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

SB762 Education – Maryland Civic Excellence Program – Established

February 16, 2024

Position: Support

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

The Maryland Civic Education Coalition enthusiastically supports Senate Bill 762, to establish the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence program. Our commitment to fostering informed, engaged citizens aligns with this important initiative, designed to honor and uplift the civic engagement of Maryland's youth.

The Seal of Civic Excellence not only celebrates but elevates students' dedication to civic understanding and societal contributions, positioning them as exemplary figures in our democracy. It assures that Maryland's youth are not only recognized within our state but stand competitively on a national stage, especially against peers from states with similar civic accolades.

Granting this seal empowers our students, acknowledging their profound impact and commitment to civic duty. It signals a revered commitment to fostering a generation that is not only civically knowledgeable but also competitively poised in a global context of civic education.

Supporting Senate Bill 762 underscores Maryland's dedication to enhancing its educational system, preparing citizens for leadership and service with a prestigious seal that embodies excellence. It will strengthen Maryland's reputation for its commitment to civic excellence, boasting citizens who are not only distinguished but also globally competitive.

We urge this esteemed committee to report favorably on SB762.

Genie Massey, MD-CEC Program Coordinator

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As a coalition dedicated to civic education and empowerment, we express our unified support for establishing a Seal of Civic Excellence in Maryland public schools. This program is a visionary step towards recognizing and promoting the vital role of civic knowledge, skills, and engagement among PK-12 students. By formally acknowledging both students and schools that exhibit a profound commitment to civic involvement, this program will shine a light on the critical importance of civic education in developing participatory, thoughtful citizens.

This legislation would promote:

- **Enhanced Civic Education:** Encourages comprehensive civic learning, ensuring students grasp the fundamentals of democracy and civic responsibilities.
- **Active Student Engagement:** Promotes student involvement in civic and community activities, fostering a sense of responsibility and belonging.
- **Critical Thinking and Diversity:** Equips students to address societal issues thoughtfully, valuing diverse perspectives.
- **Community and Democracy Strengthening:** Extends impact beyond schools, encouraging community partnership and participation in civic life.

We believe the Seal of Civic Excellence will significantly benefit Maryland's youth, schools, and communities by promoting civic knowledge, skills, and engagement. This program is a crucial investment in our democratic future, preparing students to be active, informed participants in the democratic process.

We urge the Maryland General Assembly to support this initiative, and our coalition is ready to assist in any way to ensure its successful implementation.

We the undersigned respectfully urge the Committee to report favorably on SB762.

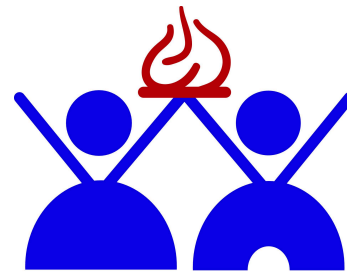


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