

February 15th, 2024

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

**Position: Support for Senate Bill 0762**

To the Honorable Members of the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Anisa Kalil. I am in 10th grade, and I live in Baltimore County, Maryland. I write to you today to express my firm support of Senate Bill 0762, establishing the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence Program.

As a lifelong public school student, I have witnessed firsthand the power that civic education holds in our country. By providing an enhanced focus on community involvement, civic engagement is imperative to improving our democracy as a whole.

The Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence program will be a major step forward in achieving this goal. By mobilizing the Maryland Government to create the Civic Excellence Program, we can recognize students, schools, and organizations that are dedicated to civics and civic engagement. In doing so, we can not only motivate students to use their voices and prioritize education around impactful community issues, but enhance key parts of democracy that are already in play.

Through organizations such as student government, speech extracurriculars, and the Maryland Civic Education Coalition, I have personally been fortunate enough to make civic action a cornerstone of my education. However, this is not the case for everyone. There are many students that may be interested, yet not encouraged to take part in these activities or use their voices to promote this beneficial change. Establishing the Seal of Civic Excellence would provide for more strengthening of these activities, providing all Marylanders with an acknowledgement and importance of being civically involved, even beyond what is noted here. This bill aims to support democracy and positive contributions to our society and, thus, I urge a favorable report on this bill.

Thank you very much for your time.

Best regards,  
Anisa Kalil