

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

My name is Katherine Massey, and I am currently a college student at the University of Maryland, College Park. Through my personal testimony, I am here to express my earnest support for Senate Bill 762, the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence.

This bill is significant to me and my peers as it validates our efforts in civic engagement. It's not just an award; it's a recognition that young Marylanders' contributions to democracy are invaluable.

I've learned firsthand through my work with the League of Women Voters, the National Honors Society, and the Maryland Civic Education Coalition that active civic participation makes a huge impact on our communities around the state. We need to encourage more students to participate in activities like these to make them more informed citizens and active members of our communities. Just a small encouragement like the Seal of Civic Excellence would motivate students like me to become informed and active participants in our democracy.

I urge the committee to support SB 762, reinforcing the message that the involvement of young people is crucial for our state's democratic health.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,

Katherine Massey  
Washington County