

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Testimony in Support of SB 762

February 16, 2024

Hello, My name is Aleena Malik, and I am currently a Junior At Crofton High School I am a part of the Maryland Civic Education Coalition Youth Advisory Council. I am here to express my support for Senate Bill 762, the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence.

According to multiple studies, students who received an excellence award were the students on the verge of withdrawing their enrollment, however, their excellence award they received they decided to continue their studies and were more motivated to do so.

This significantly shows that student recognition positively impacts student retention and academic success. Students respond to extrinsic motivators such as awards, feel rewarded, and validated resulting in strong intrinsic motivations to put in their best effort in their academics making them confident to become leaders to motivate others.

As a junior in high school, I volunteered countless long hours and put in my best effort to serve my community to make an impact. I feel like I and countless other students should be recognized for the hard efforts we make. Not only does this bill symbolize the value of serving in the community. It recognizes inspiring leaders who make a significant impact in our community and motivate others to do the same. The Youth will be our next leaders in strengthening our democracy and they should be recognized as such.

The Seal of Civic Excellence will motivate students like me to be these inspiring leaders who are actively involved in our democracy and who are willing to stand up for civics here in Maryland.

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

Aleena Malik
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