



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0386
COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION - STUDENT MEMBERS – VOTING RIGHTS AND
PARTICIPATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lewis-Young

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0386 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are fully supportive of our representative democracy and the fact that residents in this state have a voice in state and local governance. This bill would allow student members of county Boards of Education to have a vote on some of the matters that the Board undertakes. Student members would be able to vote on any matter before the Board except –

- Dismissal or disciplinary action against personnel
- Hearings related to disciplinary action against personnel
- Appeals made related to disciplinary action against personnel

This would allow students to be more engaged in the matters that affect them the most. It would also serve to get students more engaged in local politics which our members wholeheartedly encourage.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.