

### **Personal Testimony - HB 0373**

HB 0373 would allow young people to have a voice in who represents them and their county on local school boards. This is of the utmost importance, especially in an age of book banning and discriminatory school board policies.

I am from Carroll County, Maryland, where I was a board member of Carroll Kids for Equity. This organization facilitated protests against a controversial and discriminatory policy banning pride flags, which was later approved by the school board.

In Carroll County, the school board enacted a policy banning pride flags without thoughtfully considering and listening to the thoughts of the many young people who testified. One school board member even said she would support segregating schools to protect LGBTQ+ Youth, which disregards a long history of discriminatory policies surrounding segregation.

HB 0373 would allow young people to have a voice in the school board and make sure that their interests are represented, especially in an era where organizations such as Moms for Liberty are gaining power and influence. Without a voting student member, this is the only way that school districts such as CCPS will consider the opinions of the young people they affect.

Therefore, I urge a favorable report on HB 0373.

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