

Ways and Means Committee

Testimony in Support of SB 762

March 25, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the Maryland House Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Safora Noor, and I am currently a High School Student at Towson High School. I am here to express my earnest support for Senate Bill 762, the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence, through my personal testimony.

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 proves young Marylanders' contributions to democracy are invaluable.

The Seal of Civic Excellence motivates students like me to become informed and active participants in our democracy. The many provisions in the bill motivate students in the state to take government classes and perform well in those classes. Such classes allow students to learn about the democratic process and give students many opportunities to get involved in civics. Personally, classes like AP Government and Politics allowed me to gain insight on statewide and national legislation, which motivated me to have my voice heard. Additionally, the service learning hour requirement motivates students to be civically engaged not just for the sake of getting enough service learning hours, but to do something from which the student can learn more about civics and educate others on what civics is. By recognizing students for their achievement in civics, the state is fostering a new generation that is involved in the community and cares about one another.

Thus, 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,
Safora Noor
Baltimore County