

March 27, 2024

Xylea Keyfauver  
Middletown, MD, 21769

**TESTIMONY ON SB762 - FAVORABLE**  
**Education - Maryland Civic Excellence Program - Established**

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 762, the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence Bill, as it comes before the Ways & Means Committee in the Maryland House of Delegates.

As a student deeply committed to civic engagement and community involvement, I have seen the importance of empowering young people to become active participants in our democracy. The establishment of the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence program presents a unique opportunity to celebrate students' dedication to civic causes while also encouraging further engagement.

Personally, I have found that many members of my high school have not sought to further their civic engagement and education, as many of the service hours required for graduation had been built into our curriculum since middle school. Additionally, gaining service hours meant that we did many varied service projects, which required only a simple written reflection upon completion, and we often did not engage more deeply with the programs in which we participated. I believe that this bill would foster more intention behind this civic engagement, requiring students to complete a 30 hour service project to gain recognition for their hard work. This would provide students with the opportunity to become more invested in their school and community, while also receiving acknowledgement for their efforts.

I respectfully urge the Ways and Means Committee to support Senate Bill 762 and help make the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence program a reality. By doing so, we can inspire and empower students across our State to make a difference in their communities.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of this important legislation. I look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on Maryland's youth and the future of our democracy.

Sincerely,

Xylea Keyfauver