

My name is Meghal Spencer, and I am a SEAT(Student Equity Advisory Team) Ambassador, and a member of CRASC(Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils). I am **writing in support of Bill SB307**, where the student member of the board (SMOB) is entitled to a \$15,000 scholarship, revising the current amount of \$8,000.

My reasons for Bill SB307 to be passed are as follows. First, the Anne Arundel County SMOB is the only student member of the board in the nation to have full voting rights. As of 2022, the National School Board has found that local districts can have student members in at least 31 states, yet Maryland is the only state with a voting SMOB. This makes the Anne Arundel County SMOB incredibly unique and an extremely progressive position. It is also competitive and difficult to obtain. Students going for the SMOB position need to have a lot of background in student leadership and government, and they compete with others through interviews and elections. I truly believe that the intense amount of work these incredible students complete to get this position entitles them to a higher amount of compensation, helping elevate them to their full potential with the scholarship.

An argument that could be made against Bill SB307 is that students do not need as much pay as adult board members, who currently receive \$15,000 annually for their services. However, the SMOB often is heavily benefited by the scholarship money. As college tuition prices are rising, scholarship money is often essential to the SMOB(who is a high school senior). Additionally, these students have to put in a large amount of work, the same as adult board members, during their junior and senior years of highschool, which are often busy with important exams, college applications, and extracurriculars. Also, the SMOB is limited to only using the money for academics, while adult board members are free to use it as they want without stipulations.

The members of CRASC and I stand together **in support of Bill SB307** to give the hardworking SMOBs the compensation they do for their impactful work in their unique positions. Thank you for your consideration, and we hope you stand with us.

Respectfully,  
Meghal Spencer  
9th Grade Historian, Severna Park High School SEAT Ambassador