



P.O. Box 5200
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March 7, 2025

RE: HB1524 Wicomico County Board of Education – Election of Members

Dear Legislators:

As it relates to HB 1524, the Wicomico County Board of Education currently has student representatives that provide school updates at board meetings. Any student can make a public comment before the school board to relay any concerns. Therefore, an appointed student member on the Wicomico County Board of Education without voting rights is meaningless, unless there is another agenda. Based on our knowledge of school boards that have appointed student members in other counties, it starts by appointing a student to the school board and then going for voting rights in a future bill. Appointing a minor child that is possibly under the age of 18 years to an official position outside of the electoral process is not only unconstitutional, but tactfully undermines democracy.

Secondly, school representatives currently don't write their own school updates. They are all scripted by their principals and they are simply reciting the script at board meetings. Parroting political buzzwords that a child would never write, the exploitation is obvious. We know this as a matter of fact, as Vice Chairs/Presidents are assigned to work with the student representatives and have provided this information to us. We also have proof of political activists influencing and manipulating these young student representatives.

The same scripted and manipulation tactics would go for a student board member, but even more so. Like the school representatives, a student board member would not represent the students, but represent administration and political influencers. They follow the script in hopes to receive a letter of recommendation for that college they hope to attend, so they comply and play along like a good puppet.

Although having a student board member sounds innocent and inclusively-good in theory, it is not from what we have seen with students being exploited and manipulated across multiple counties. HB1524 is a negligent bill without fully understanding its ramifications as noted in this letter, including the fact that this bill wasn't even proofread before its submission as the last paragraph contains errors referring to Worcester County Board of Education travel expenses to be approved by the Worcester County Commissioners. Worcester has nothing to do with this Wicomico bill, nor does Wicomico have commissioners.

For these reasons, The Delmarva Parent Teacher Coalition opposes HB1524, and respectfully asks for an unfavorable decision on this bill.

Darren Lombardo

Darren Lombardo, Director
Delmarva Parent Teacher Coalition