

**HB0402 - Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member
Scholarship - Increase**

Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

IN SUPPORT OF

My name, Gabriella Blair, I am a student of Meade Senior Highschool of Anne Arundel County. I am writing in support of HB0402 - Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member Scholarship Increase. If passed, this bill will increase the Student Member of the Board's Scholarship from \$8,000 to \$15,000. As of 2022, a bill was passed to raise Board of Education members annual salaries to \$15,000 instead of the previous \$8,000. The scholarship is currently not aligned with the rest of the members of the board. The scholarship is meant to help support the Student Member of the Board after serving their time on the board. With the rise of college tuition, a rise in the scholarship should be compensated.

The Student member of the Board works equally as hard as the other six members. They have a job they have to attend to just like the other member's. Therefore, the student members scholarship should also be included in the recent raise. An increase in the scholarship will not only support the student in applying to college but the scholarship can encourage other students to apply for the Student of the Board Member position. A scholarship may be what's stopping a student from applying for a position as such and including a scholarship is very beneficial to the position as a whole. With the scholarship being promoted, you get more of a guarantee that there's representation from lower income students to not only foster inclusivity but to allow a different perspective when it comes to being a Student Member on the Board. Currently the other members of the board make \$15,00 annually. The only salary that has not been renewed is the Student Member of the Board's scholarship. Considering there's nearly a \$7,000 difference in the salaries, this matter should be addressed.

"Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society." - Sonia Sotomayor