

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

Monday, February 3, 2025

SUPPORT

My name is Amanda Morataya, and I am an 11th grader at Chesapeake Science Point, in Anne Arundel County. I am writing in support of HB0402 Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member Scholarship - Increase. If passed, this bill would increase the Student Member of the Board of Education's scholarship from \$8,000 to \$15,000, in line with the other members on the board. Recently, every board member except for the student member saw a pay increase of \$7,000, which went into effect last December. The Anne Arundel County Student Member of the Board is one of the only "SMOB"s in the nation to have full voting rights and responsibilities. Therefore, the SMOB receiving less pay goes directly against the cherished principle of "equal work, equal pay." This was designed to encourage more people to run for an elected office on the board, and increasing the scholarship to \$15,000 could absolutely encourage students from lower income backgrounds to pursue the position instead of getting a job or finding an internship. However, this is simply an additional benefit to the scholarship increase, as HB0402 represents what Anne Arundel County has been doing for decades with Board of Education pay and compensation, where the student member receives pay equal to their fellow board members. Upholding precedent is important, as is recognizing the hard work of every one of our SMOBs.

Accordingly, I respectfully request a **favorable** committee report on HB0402.

Respectfully Submitted,

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