

Greetings to the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee of the Maryland State Senate.

I am Phong Thai Pham, a student at White Oak Middle School, representing all staff and students and their opinion. Over the past few weeks, I have collected sufficient opinions from our staff team, and the student body and I am here to present the data to the committee.

Across students in 6th-8th grade, 42 have responded. The data shows two-thirds majority in supporting the bill, including conditional support with amendments. About 20% had no position, while a smaller group opposed it. Some students that chose "No Position" have reported about not being able to understand the bill enough, and believing that it has no effect on them. This does not mean that it will directly weaken my data though, they just needed some clarity on how it will impact the county and everyone inside it. Students that have voted unfavorably have expressed concerns about their education and how teachers will generally feel more rushed. Some students expressed concerns about their education and pacing also indicated that they feel their current system is fine. This shows that their concerns are not with the current system, but how the new system would impact workload and education in the future. For example, half days being turned into full educational days.

Based on these data and my personal experience, I fully support the bill, particularly if these concerns will be addressed. I urge a favorable report. Thank you for your time.

x 

Phong Thai Pham  
White Oak Middle School