

**SB 535 Testimony- AChan.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Abby Chan

Position: FAV

## **TESTIMONY FOR SB535**

### **FROM ABBY CHAN, AACPL STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Thank you, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee. My name is Abby Chan and I'm a junior at Crofton High School. I am also the student member of the Anne Arundel County Public Library Board of Trustees.

As the student member, I serve as an advocate for youth in my library system. My position ensures that students' perspectives are heard and brought to the forefront of the library's governing body. In our system, I have full voting rights and serve as an equal among my fellow board members.

Before student members were included on library boards, decisions that impact youth were often made with only adult voices at the table. While those perspectives are important, students experience libraries in different ways. Having a student member ensures that those real experiences are represented when decisions are made.

In my role, I've been able to testify at town hall on behalf of District 7's library system, speaking from a youth perspective on the need for increased funding that shared how young people rely on library spaces daily and how expanded funding would support more programs or resources that students depend on.

As both a student and a library trustee, I've also helped bridge my school and our local library to create a nearly entirely student-led Lunar New Year festival, just last Saturday. Working closely with both library staff and students, we organized performances, cultural activities, and community outreach that ultimately brought over 200+ attendees and gave each student the opportunity to lead and share their heritage in our community.

Overall, having a student member benefits the entire library system. It helps boards better understand youth needs and how decisions about spaces and resources affect students across our county. It also helps strengthen connections with schools and brings fresh ideas into discussions. For students, it provides leadership experience, builds civic engagement, and shows young people that their voices matter.

Students aren't just library users—they are partners in shaping the future of our libraries. This bill would ensure that more students like me across Maryland have the opportunity to contribute, lead, and bring their perspectives into decisions that affect them.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience, and I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.

**Letter in support of SB535\_Carrie\_Willson.pdf**

Uploaded by: Carrie Willson

Position: FAV



inspiring possibility ✦ calvertlibrary.info

Carrie Willson, Executive Director • [carrie.willson@calvertlibrary.info](mailto:carrie.willson@calvertlibrary.info)  
850 Costley Way • Prince Frederick, MD 20678 • 410-535-0291 • 301-855-1862

**BILL:** SB 0535: County Boards of Library Trustees – Membership – Student Member      **DATE:** March 4, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Adding student representation to public library Boards of Trustees      **COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

**TESTIMONY FROM:** Carrie Willson, Executive Director, Calvert Library      **POSITION:** Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of **SB 0535: County Boards of Library Trustees – Membership – Student Member**.

This legislation gives the Boards of Library Trustees statutory authority to add a student member to their ranks. It also gives those Boards the ability to decide what level of voting rights their student colleague will have, if any, beyond voting on policy.

The ability to add a student member to our board will provide additional leadership development to young people in our communities and insight into the next generation of library governors for our existing board members. The student members of Calvert County Public School’s Board have been exceptionally thoughtful teens. I look forward to having a student board member and to the important perspectives they will bring to the table.

I ask for a **favorable report on SB 535** and thank you for your support for our state’s young leaders.

Sincerely,

Carrie Willson,  
Executive Director, Calvert Library



**supportcfl.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dana Newman

Position: FAV

March 2, 2026

Support for SB 535 – Student Members on  
County Boards of Library Trustees

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair

Senate Education, Energy, and th

Annapolis e Environment Co Building

mmittee

2 West Miller Senate Office, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and  
Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Talbot County Free Library  
Board of Trustees, I respectfully submit  
this letter in support of Senate Bill 535  
regarding student members on county  
boards of library trustees.

We are grateful for the sponsor's inclusion  
of language that allows local boards to  
directly appoint a student member.

Providing this flexibility honors local  
governance and enables each board to  
establish a selection process that reflects

its community and policy priorities. The Talbot County Free Library values youth engagement, and we believe that student voices can contribute meaningfully to board deliberations. Allowing boards to appoint a student member through a locally determined process supports both meaningful participation and appropriate oversight. Our library board has two student liaison members that regularly contribute to discussion and give insight into what yourh need and want from the library. For these reasons, the Talbot County Free Library Board of Trustees urges the Committee to give SB 535 a favorable report.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of Maryland's public libraries.

Sincerely,

Dana Newman

Director

# Talbot County Free Library

**SB0535 (Support) Wicomico Public Library.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michele Copper

Position: FAV



March 2, 2026

**Re: Support for SB 535 – Student Members on County Boards of Library Trustees**

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Wicomico Public Library Board of Trustees, I respectfully submit this letter in support of Senate Bill 535 regarding student members on county boards of library trustees.

We are grateful for the sponsor's inclusion of language that allows local boards to directly appoint a student member. Providing this flexibility honors local governance and enables each board to establish a selection process that reflects its community and policy priorities.

The Wicomico Public Library values youth engagement, and we believe that student voices can contribute meaningfully to board deliberations. Allowing boards to appoint a student member through a locally determined process supports both meaningful participation and appropriate oversight.

For these reasons, the Wicomico Public Library Board of Trustees urges the Committee to give SB 535 a favorable report.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of Maryland's public libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Schlehofer'.

Michele Schlehofer  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Wicomico Public Library

**CCPL\_Testimony\_SB0535\_3.2.26.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rachel Wright

Position: FAV

<b>BILL:</b>	<b>SB0535</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	March 2, 2026
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	County Boards of Library Trustees-Student Member	<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
<b>TESTIMONY FROM:</b>	Rachel Wright, Executive Director, Cecil County Public Library	<b>POSITION:</b>	<b>Support</b>

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) respectfully supports **SB0535-County Boards of Library Trustees-Student Member**, which authorizes, but does not require, county library boards to include a student member on the Board of Library Trustees.

The Cecil County Public Library consistently prioritizes services to teens and provides them numerous opportunities for community and library engagement. A shining example of this is CCPL's Youth Board, where a cohort of juniors and seniors gain knowledge of library services and governance, develop leadership and community skills, and gain practical skills applicable to success in future pursuits. In recent years, with the goal of improving mental health outcomes for teens, CCPL's Youth Board successfully hosted Mental Health Nights for teens at multiple branches.

Engaging and empowering students is integral to community success, and we are grateful for this bill, which would permit local boards to include youth representation, if they so choose. Allowing boards to appoint a student member through a locally determined process supports meaningful participation while also preserving local control and ensuring consideration of community needs.

**Cecil County Public Library, therefore, supports SB0535 – County Board of Library Trustees-Student Member** which would allow county library boards to elect to include student members.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Maryland libraries and communities.

Truly,



Rachel Wright  
Executive Director, Cecil County Public Library  
485 Mauldin Avenue  
North East, MD 21901

# **Testimony in support of SB0535 - Library Trustees**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0535\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

03/04/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0535- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**County Boards of Library Trustees - Membership - Student Member**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0535, **County Boards of Library Trustees - Membership - Student Member**

This bill is submitted to provide a path for the voice of the youth in a community to be heard on matters affecting the libraries in a jurisdiction. It will empower a board to decide to provide for the selection of a student member of the board... A student member shall be selected by a process established by the board. The student member of the board shall:

- be a junior or senior year student enrolled in a public or nonpublic high school in the county that the library serves
- who is of good character and is in good standing in the student's high school
- be selected in the student's sophomore or junior year by a method established by the board
- have an interest in library matters
- serve a term of 1 year.

A... student member of a board may vote on all policy matters before the board. A board may adopt a policy or bylaw to authorize a student member to vote on additional nonpolicy matters before the board.

This bill will authorize a county board of library trustees to provide for the selection of a student member of the board; and establishing the qualifications, setting a 1-year term of office, and providing for the voting rights of the student member of a county board of library trustees, if selected.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0535.**

**SB535 - King - Sponsor Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Nancy King

Position: FAV

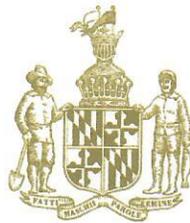
**NANCY J. KING**  
*Legislative District 39*  
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Chair*

Education, Business, and  
Administration Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 123  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3686  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686  
Nancy.King@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 535 – County Boards of Library Trustees – Membership – Student Member**

March 4, 2026

Mister Chairman and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

Our public libraries are far more than a place to get a book. Libraries are community centers that serve as places of learning, professional development, healthcare, human interaction, access, intellectual freedom, and so much more. Libraries are free public spaces that allow everyone to feel safe and to find opportunity. And for many young people, libraries are a space to foster civic engagement, reduce social inequalities and encourage leadership and life-long learning.

Senate Bill 535 will take the idea of encouraging leadership a step further by authorizing county boards of library trustees to allow for the selection of a student member. The bill does not require local boards to add a student member, but it sets the framework should a board decide to move in that direction, while leaving the process up to the local boards.

By incorporating student voices into governance decisions that affect programming, outreach, and services for young residents, we will be cultivating the next generation of civic leaders. Providing students with a seat at the table strengthens transparency, broadens perspective and reinforces the role of libraries as inclusive community institutions.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 535.

**SB0535\_SMOB Howard.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tonya Aikens

Position: FAV



HOWARD COUNTY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

*Learn. Grow. Connect.*

**Testimony in support of SB0535: County Boards of Library Trustees – Membership -- Student Member**  
**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**February 27, 2026**  
**Submitted by Tonya Aikens, Howard County Library System President & CEO**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I respectfully express support for **SB0535: County Boards of Library Trustees – Membership -- Student Member**, which authorizes county library boards to include a student member.

We are grateful for the sponsor's inclusion of permissive language that allows local boards to determine whether and how to appoint a student member. This flexibility upholds the principles of local governance by enabling each board to establish a selection process that reflects its community and policy priorities. Moreover, permitting boards to appoint a student member through a locally defined process facilitates meaningful and appropriate student participation while maintaining the oversight responsibilities entrusted to local governing bodies.

At Howard County Library System, we consistently engage teens in ways that elevate their perspectives and strengthen our services:

- **Teen Advisory Boards:** Each branch convenes a Teen Advisory Board that meets monthly to provide input on library collections, programs, and services.
- **Systemwide Teen Programming:** We offer a coordinated schedule of classes and activities across all branches—self-directed, peer-led, and staff-facilitated—available after school hours at least four days per week.
- **Collaborative Space Design:** In preparation for the expansion of teen space at our Elkridge Branch, more than 140 teens are participating in an internship program to co-design a compassion-centered, 9,000-square-foot area specifically for teens.

We appreciate that SB0535 is entirely permissive, preserving local discretion and allowing each county to determine whether adding a student member aligns with its governance structure.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Maryland's public libraries.

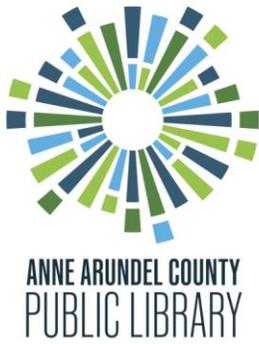
Sincerely,

Tonya Aikens,  
President & CEO

# **Supporting SB535, Authorizing Student Members of L**

Uploaded by: Skip Auld

Position: FWA



**BILL:** County Boards of Library Trustees – Membership – Student Member (SB535) **DATE:** February 23, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing Student Members of County Library Boards of Trustees **COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**TESTIMONY FROM:** Skip Auld, Chief Executive Officer, Anne Arundel County Public Library **POSITION:** Support, with Amendment

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

I want to urge a favorable report on this bill. **For the past three years, Anne Arundel County Public Library has had a Student Trustee and every one of them has been a fantastic addition to our Board of Trustees.**

In fact, our current Student Trustee Abby Chan is planning to testify before you on Wednesday at your 1:00pm hearing. She is a highly engaged, deliberative, and insightful Member on our Board of Trustees.

**This bill leaves full control in the hands of local Boards of Trustees.** Boards that decide to add a Student Trustee determine what level of voting rights their new colleague will have, either on policy matters alone or on budget and personnel matters, like Anne Arundel’s Student Trustee.

I do want to recommend a **friendly Amendment** to this bill. According to the Bylaws of the Public Library Association of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Inc., *“The student appointee may attend an Anne Arundel County Public School, private school, or be a homeschool student.”* However, HB586 authorizes only *“a junior or senior year student enrolled in a public or nonpublic high school in the county that the library serves, who is of good character and is in good standing in the student’s high school.”* **Please consider adding “or a homeschool student.”**

Anne Arundel County  
Public Library  
5 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis MD 21401  
**410-222-7371**  
aacpl.net

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Anne Arundel County Public Library, I request a favorable report on HB586.

Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of the people of Maryland!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skip Auld". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Skip Auld  
Chief Executive Officer

# **Library.pdf**

Uploaded by: Travis Lerol

Position: FWA

To whom it may concern,

The overall impact of this bill appears to be primarily including students in overseeing the library, and this goal seems quite desirable. Obviously we want to ensure that students value libraries and understand the challenges they face, and become involved in that. However, the criteria for inclusion excludes homeschooled students. It is my belief that all students, regardless of method of education, should have equal opportunity to become involved in this program.

With such an amendment, this bill would be quite desirable.

Thank you,  
Travis Lerol