

My name is Gabrielle Moore Brooks and I am a 12th student at Aberdeen High School in Harford County.

The Maryland Civic Excellence Bill is an incredible piece of legislation that will not only help inform students of civics but increase overall civic involvement throughout the entire community. Through speaking with students in my county, and throughout the state it is clear that this bill is widely supported to be implemented.

This seal of civics would encourage students to get involved in government and civics in their area which will lead to an overall more involved community. 14 states already have similar programs and have seen the benefits. In a year with a record high deficit this bill has no associated cost. The Maryland Department of Education, National Council for Social Studies, Maryland Civic Education Coalition, and other organizations are all in favor of this bill. This is the 3rd year in a row that this bill has been introduced and once again it has easily passed the Senate and now it is essential that it also passes the House.

On behalf of the Maryland Civic Education Coalition, I respectfully urge you to ask the committee chair to bring HB0072 to a vote and for you to vote favorably on it.