

March 23, 2026  
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**TESTIMONY ON SB204 - FAVORABLE**  
**Education - Maryland Civic Excellence Program - Established**

TO: The House

My name is Kinsley Potts, and I am currently an 11th grade student at Garrison Forest School and an active member of the Maryland Civic Engagement Coalition Youth Advisory Council. I would like to plead for your support of the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence. As a student deeply committed to civic engagement and community involvement, I have seen firsthand the positive effects of volunteerism and service work in the development of young citizens. The establishment of the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence program opens the door for more youth involvement in Civics and recognition to the youth who are tirelessly working to serve and make an impact in their communities.

Personally, Civic engagement has affected my life in such a meaningful and fulfilling way by teaching skills of collaboration, responsibility, and further developing my morals of compassion, selflessness, and empathy. My first service event I planned on my own was a free community painting and backpack giveaway event, where I gave away 50 backpacks full of school supplies. Seeing the impact I could make in my community, even with a small event, was heart-warming and caused me to want and need to serve, and that need has grown exponentially. I am forever grateful for civic engagement for sparking my passion and helping me recognize the importance of uplifting and helping those around me. Civic engagement sparked a drive in me to make the world a better place day by day that I wouldn't have had without civics.

It drove me to the place I am at today, writing a testimony in support of a bill that will positively affect the future politicians, lawmakers, and leaders of tomorrow. The Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence will raise the number of youth involved in Civics and prepare them to be morally sound citizens and future leaders dedicated to making Maryland a place we are proud to call home. It will also let us confidently say the people we are handing our positions of leadership to are equipped to uphold the laws and morals honorably.

I respectfully urge the support of Senate Bill 204 so we can inspire and empower students and the future leaders who will be seated in your chairs and making decisions across Maryland to make a difference in their communities.

Kinsley Devan Potts  
Baltimore County