



## Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

### SB0008 Education – Maryland Civic Excellence Program – Established

**Bill Hearing Date January 29, 2025**

#### **Position: Support**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

As a coalition dedicated to civic education and empowerment, we express our unified support for establishing a Seal of Civic Excellence in Maryland public schools. This program is a visionary step towards recognizing and promoting the vital role of civic knowledge, skills, and engagement among PK-12 students. By formally acknowledging both students and schools that exhibit a profound commitment to civic involvement, this program will shine a light on the critical importance of civic education in developing participatory, thoughtful citizens.

#### **This legislation would promote:**

- **Enhanced Civic Education:** Encourages comprehensive civic learning, ensuring students grasp the fundamentals of democracy and civic responsibilities.
- **Active Student Engagement:** Promotes student involvement in civic and community activities, fostering a sense of responsibility and belonging.
- **Critical Thinking and Diversity:** Equips students to address societal issues thoughtfully, valuing diverse perspectives.
- **Community and Democracy Strengthening:** Extends impact beyond schools, encouraging community partnership and participation in civic life.

We believe the Seal of Civic Excellence will significantly benefit Maryland's youth, schools, and communities by promoting civic knowledge, skills, and engagement. This program is a crucial investment in our democratic future, preparing students to be active, informed participants in the democratic process.

We urge the Maryland General Assembly to support this initiative, and our coalition is ready to assist in any way to ensure its successful implementation.

**We the undersigned respectfully urge the Committee to report favorably on SB0008.**





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