

November 12, 2025

Testimony of Chloe
In Support of Senate Bill 367

TESTIMONY

My name is Chloe and I'm from Chicopee. I graduated from high school in 2021, and I'm now a youth leader with Out Now and the Students Speak program. This year I've worked with Students Speak to learn more about the experiences of student representatives across the Commonwealth and their ideas to increase student voice representation in Massachusetts. I'm writing to you today because I support Senate Bill 367 and believe it should be signed into law.

This bill brings up the important question of why we need student representatives serving on school committees. The answer to that is simple; students need more of a voice in all matters that affect them. Every day students face challenges that will affect them in the long run—whether it's tests that will determine if they will be able to graduate, school budgets that are used for things that are not beneficial for them, or disruptive behavior in the classroom that impacts their grades and wellbeing. Because students have firsthand experience with these problems, they deserve a seat at the table to fully express their views on how these issues are dealt with.

Even though I've already graduated, I understand that students need a voice in their education. As a member of a marginalized community, I tried to speak up about issues affecting members of my community while I was in high school, but I was seen as incompetent in identifying these problems and offering solutions to them by adults in my school system. When I tried to speak up, I was ignored and pushed aside. Instead of listening to my experiences, one of my teachers told me that my points weren't valid and tried to argue back with information that wasn't accurate or reflective of my experience as a member of my community. My voice was not heard by those in power.

I think that schools often ignore student voices because they feel like adults know best. Schools may worry that students are too young to have a say in these important issues or lack experience to deal with these problems. However, because students deal with these challenges every day,

they have the expertise and maturity to best handle these situations. In ever-changing school climates, it is now more important than ever that students are given opportunities to become leaders in their classrooms and communities. Students are not afraid to speak up for themselves and want to make a difference in their communities, and this bill is an important step in allowing them to do so. The many students that have prepared testimony in support of this bill are further proof of the reach and importance of this movement advocating for student voice inclusion in educational decision making. Today I am writing to support Senate Bill 367 —and the amendments proposed by other Students Speak members — because I know that students deserve a say in their education.