

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

November 12, 2025

Evan, Students Speak Youth Leader

High School Freshman

Yes on Senate Bill 367

TESTIMONY

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Education,

Hello, my name is Evan, and I am a freshman in high school. I am in support of Senate Bill 367 because I believe it has the potential to improve the future of our schools. I encourage you to vote Yes on this bill.

Before I joined Students Speak as a Youth Leader, I often thought about the changes my middle school needed, like the lack of student representation in school decisions. As an 8th grader, important choices were made about us without including or ultimately helping us. One moment that has stayed with me was when my school decided to cut back on the food budget. We students were not included in the conversation, and the outcome was a lunch experience that felt dull and no longer enjoyable. Options became limited to greasy pizza, so greasy it could drench a napkin, burgers that looked and tasted like dirt, and “specials” were simply leftovers of the rest of the options. Nothing about it made students feel cared for or excited to come to school.

Experiences like this showed me how essential student voice is in shaping our schools. If some students were voted in or elected to a board, like in a democracy, and had a real voice in what happens to us and our schools, we would feel seen and more connected to our school.

Students Speak has helped me grow advocacy skills by researching, selecting, and contacting organizations that support student voice and agency. I learned that my voice matters and that people want to hear what students think. This experience has helped me speak with confidence, and I hope to bring that same voice into my school.

I support Senate Bill 367 and other efforts that promote student voice, and I ask you to do the same, so future students may benefit. Thank you to the Education Committee for taking the time to read and consider my written testimony.