

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

November 12, 2025

Testimony of Grace
In Support of Senate Bill 367

TESTIMONY

Hello, my name is Grace, and I am a high school junior in Brockton. I am a youth leader with Students Speak, and I am here today because I support Senate Bill 367 and I believe that students should have more of a say in how our schools are governed.

This semester, our committee interviewed student advisory members, school officials, and other students. From these conversations, I've learned that students are not only trustworthy but deeply care about what happens in our schools. Even when we don't know every detail or get something wrong, students are open to new ideas, want to learn, and want to be a part of the decision-making process to make our schools better.

I recently saw this during our Junior Council elections in Brockton. Each candidate had creative ideas for change—some that no one else, not even our teachers, had thought of. That experience showed me how much students care and how many new perspectives they can bring to the table when given the chance. Students can creatively solve many of the problems schools are facing and know how to come together with their *entire* school community.

People say that students don't have enough experience to vote, but we know what works and we are willing to learn. In one interview with a former district leader, we agreed that students adapted to technology during the pandemic and can provide more valuable insight into how technology or AI *actually* affects our learning rather than having adults guess.

Giving students the *vote* isn't about giving students all the power. It's about partnership. Students' experiences can help guide every decision committee members make and help think of better options for schools. In return, adult committee members can help us learn the tools to make our ideas real and practical. When we work together, we can bridge the gap and make schools better for everyone.

We all care about schools. Education shouldn't feel like someone else's thing; it should feel like *our* thing. And this bill is the first step in the right direction. I hope you will pass Senate Bill 367 with the changes my colleagues will propose so that students can be active partners in shaping the future of our schools. Thank you to the Education Committee for your time and consideration. My committee is here to answer any questions you might have.