

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION



November 12, 2025

Testimony of Jayda
In Support of Senate Bill 367

TESTIMONY

Hi, my name is Jaydalyse, and I'm a high school freshman who lives in Lawrence. I am here, along with my peers, as a member of the student leadership team from Students Speak: a team of high school students working to advocate for Student Voice in Massachusetts.

First, I want to thank you for the time and effort you put into making sure students like me get a great education. We know it's not easy! Schools are facing real challenges after the pandemic, with funding gaps, and new issues like phones in classrooms.

I'm here today to advocate for Senate Bill 367, because your job could be easier with students as part of the team.

I play field hockey and volleyball, and do cheer, and those experiences have taught me how important teamwork is. In volleyball, every player has a role, and if one person is missing, the team struggles to reach their goal.

For our goal - making schools better for kids like me, we have a lot of players on our team. Parents, lawmakers like you, superintendents, committee members, principals and more.

All of them could be elected to a committee. And anyone who is elected can vote.

Well, almost anyone.

Right now, students selected for the committee can't vote. And as a result, we're missing a big part of our team. Students!

And without us, we're playing with a hand tied behind our backs. Like a volleyball team, playing 5 against 6.

Students understand what it is like to be in school today. As a team, we have interviewed different students in different school districts about their experiences. They want to be heard. Right now, non-voting student committee members can share what matters to them. But without a vote, nobody has to listen. When students have a vote, they have a real voice and our schools can make choices that truly reflect our experiences and help us succeed.

We as students don't want to take over. We just know we can help more. We want to be involved.

Because we know making education work better in Massachusetts isn't just your goal.

It's Our Goal.

And we can reach it together. As a team.

I support Senate Bill 367, and I believe it's a great starting point. As members of your team, we at Students Speak invite you to work together with us to make it even better, and make sure that when students speak, school committees listen.

So we reach our goals together.

Thank you very much for your time!