

## **Grant Program to Reduce and Compost School Waste in Public Schools**

Sponsors: Obse Abebe and Nikhitha Balijepalli

**WHEREAS** Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association is dedicated to advocating for the rights of MCPS students and thus students' right to a future is central to MCR's mission;

**WHEREAS** Food waste contributes to global warming by increasing greenhouse gas emissions as it is buried in landfills and decomposes into methane, a greenhouse gas twenty-one times more potent than carbon dioxide gasses;

**WHEREAS** Food waste threatens the welfare of students and other people in Maryland by worsening the rising temperatures in Maryland through an increase of greenhouse gas emission;

**WHEREAS** A Maryland General Assembly (MGA) resolution wants to combat food waste and, thus its contribution to rising greenhouse gas emissions, by establishing a \$500,000 grant program for county boards and public schools who commit to implementing programs to measure and reduce food waste;

**WHEREAS** The MGA resolution requires county boards and public schools to educate students, staff, and parents on the connection between food waste, climate, and environment with the specific requirement of implementing a "serve model" in which students can decline foods offered at the cafeteria rather than being forced to accept them and later throwing them away;

**WHEREAS** The MGA resolution requires the establishment of composite bins, prioritization of public schools with higher rates of students on FARMs, and distribution of surplus food to student families who qualify;

**WHEREAS** This resolution is an important step in combating rising greenhouse gas emissions

and, thus, global warming and its consequences for the people of Maryland, especially the youth who stand at risk of losing a safe, healthy future;

**Be It Hereby Resolved:** The MCR-SGA is in support of the principles outlined in the [SB 124/HB 150](#) “Grant Program to Reduce and Compost School Waste in Public Schools” Act and will advocate on the behalf of these proposed principles.