

Lorena Wu

Social Media: [@lorena4statesmob](#) | [Video Link](#)

EDUCATION

High School, **Poolesville High School**, Poolesville, MD
GPA: 5.00 W | 4.00 UW | 240+ Service Hours

August 2024 – May 2028

EXPERIENCE

Co-President, **Eco MoCo**

May 2025 – Present

• Leads largest student non-profit in Montgomery County with 110+ members, 7 departments, and 40+ chapters worldwide to build leadership skills through environmental education, advocacy, and stewardship • Elected Co-President after 1-year term as *Advocacy Deputy* (2024-2025) • To date, organized events collecting 350+ lbs of trash and awarded 175+ community service hours; secured \$500 for awards/financial aid to members • Engaged with local officials (Gaithersburg Mayor Jud Ashman), state leaders (Delegate Joe Vogel) and local organizations (TAME Coalition) • Successfully advocated for removal of M83 Highway from county masterplan, earning *Joe Howard Environmental Award*.

Historian & Executive Board, **Maryland Governor's Youth Advisory Council**

August 2024 – Present

• Serves as youngest member selected among 20 youth (ages 14-22) across state for 2-year legislative term • Manages \$10,000 in grants for 10 youth-led initiatives and authors annual report to Governor • Researches ~10 bills and provides recommendations to Maryland General Assembly through written and oral testimony • Organized and presented at two Community Conversation events for 100+ youth • Participated as youth representative, organizer, and moderator at *National Academy of Sciences Digital Tools for Youth Mental Health Summit*; *Johns Hopkins Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing*; and *National Academy of Sciences Child and Youth Health Care Summit*.

Director Legislative Affairs & Policy, **Montgomery County Student Member of Board (SMOB) Advisory Council (SAC)**

August 2025 – Present

• Advanced from *Legislative Deputy* (2024-2025) to department head • Created anonymous student concern system • Testified at Montgomery County Council on *MCPS Budget*, and Board of Education on *MCPS Countywide Programs*.

Deputy Advisor Awareness, **Maryland Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB)**

August 2025 – Present

• Writes and publishes SMOB 101 Handbook and 3 monthly newsletters for statewide student engagement and awareness.

Deputy Legislative Affairs, **Montgomery County Regional SGA (MCR)**

August 2025 – Present

• Organizes legislative events, including the Lawmaking 2.0 Lab with 4 legislators as panelists, and Annapolis and Capitol Hill Advocacy Days. • Connects with legislators and prepares/provides testimony and public comment on behalf of MCR.

High School Legislative Aid, **Organization of Chinese Americans – DC (OCA-DC)**

January 2025 – Present

• Organizes major legislative events including Annapolis and Capitol Hill Advocacy Days • Represented Maryland at *OCA National Convention*, *ECAASU National Conference*, and *OCA-DC Youth Leadership Summit* • As an 8th grader, selected as 1 of 20 students statewide for *Asian American Youth Advocacy Program* and engaged with Maryland Senators/Representatives at the Capitol Hill in Washington DC.

Certified Presenter, **Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC)**

August 2024 - Present

• Presented 5 workshops at MASC conferences (2024-2025); represented school at 3 MASC Annual Conventions (2023-2025).

Intern, **Lynne Harris, Montgomery County Board of Education**

August 2024 – Present

• Testified at Maryland General Assembly on *HB52 Civic Excellence Program* and *HB197 Restorative Justice in Schools*.

Student Representative, **Principal's Student Leadership Council, Poolesville High School**

September 2024 – Present

• Selected as 1 of 16 students annually to provide feedback to the principal • Organized school-wide mental health week and reviewed student surveys to address school issues.

Intern, **Maryland State Delegate Lily Qi**

July – August 2025

• Researched legislative solutions taking precedent from other states' policies, including consumer protection after the 'Click-to-Cancel' federal ruling • Wrote a policy paper "Litter Policy Reformation for a Healthier Maryland" • Campaigned for the Delegate.

My name is Lorena Wu. As a passionate student leader first and foremost, I am ready to advocate for **YOU** and the equitable, quality education **YOU** deserve.

My commitment to service is rooted in my background. My parents immigrated from Asia and Europe, each with little more than two suitcases. *Education* was the pathway that lifted them out of hardships. Today, as public servants, including my father who is in the U.S. Public Health Service, they instill in me a responsibility to give back. As State SMOB, I hope to leave a lasting impact on current and future generations of Maryland students, including my little sister.

Maryland is home to almost a million K-12 students, each with a unique perspective that deserves to be represented. Hence, over six years of leadership, I've used my *vision* of bringing student voices to table to support you. As Co-President of Eco MoCo, a student-led nonprofit advancing environmental advocacy, I've helped cultivate student leadership globally. During my term on the Governor's Maryland Youth Advisory Council, I've gained insight on students' concerns statewide. I've turned my student perspectives into policy proposals and advocacy positions as the Legislative Affairs Policy Director for the MCPS SMOB Advisory Council and as an intern with Delegate Lily Qi's office. Now, I humbly ask for the opportunity to serve you as State SMOB to bring your voices to the State Board of Education.

Join me in achieving this **VISION** for Maryland's educational future:

Valuing Student Voices: By creating two-way communication statewide through anonymous reporting forms, a monthly "SMOB Minute" on social media, a Maryland tour, and student shadowing opportunities for smaller counties.

Inclusive and Healthy Schools: By expanding digital mental health tools like Hazel Health to alleviate the gap between Maryland's counselor ratio (362:1) and the recommended standard (250:1).

Safe School Environments: By combating the drug crisis through continuing efforts like the Heroin & Opioid Awareness & Prevention Toolkit and integrating lived-experience speakers into health classes.

Infrastructure and Environmental Responsibility: By prioritizing rebuilding schools with greatest infrastructure needs, collaborating with the Maryland Department of Environment to expand recycling, and encouraging share tables (where students can leave food for others to take) to decrease waste.

Opportunity, Access, and Academic Growth: By encouraging GPS bus tracking for reliable planning, advocating for bill SB283, which would prohibit county boards of education from charging certain students with financial need exam fees, and supporting ELD learners through an advisory committee.

Next Generation Focus: By requiring districts to create AI use guidelines for students and staff, partnering with the ENOUGH Initiative and its grantees to minimize student poverty, and recategorizing "frequent illness" to not be considered as chronic absenteeism.

Together, we can build an education system that truly *reflects* and *serves* every Maryland student.