

SB0189\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
January 16, 2023

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Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0189 - FAVORABLE**

**Public Schools - Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts - Development of Content Standards and Implementation**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#000189, Public Schools - Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts - Development of Content Standards and Implementation**

If the goal of education is to produce engaged and informed citizens equipped to face the challenges of our diverse multi-cultural and multi-racial society this bill will advance those goals. We currently face a crisis in education in which a loud and vocal group wants to censor what is taught and how it is taught according to their religious beliefs. They seem to believe that their views, based on their religious interpretations of how people should live and conduct their lives, is the only acceptable way for the education of children. There seems to be an attempt to suppress children learning about anything that might cause them feelings of inferiority or distress. The preferred method to accomplish this is to sanitize learning and outcomes.

This bill attempts to set standards that will encourage students to learn about diversity in society and how we can mutually create one that is more inclusive, less biased towards others, and acknowledges methodologies to achieve those goals. It will “ENCOURAGE SAFE, WELCOMING, AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS REGARDLESS OF RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITY, AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.” It looks at students as full human beings with all that entails and acknowledges that we have differences as strengths, not weaknesses. It makes learning everything about everything we can a goal instead of suppressing that learning when specific political or religious beliefs would restrict or abandon full participation of every learner in the range of human expression. We cannot, we must not, let those who fear learning about difficult topics will harm a child to dictate that all children, not just their own, be “protected” from that knowledge.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0189.**