

2/14/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0543- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Institutions of Higher Education - Admissions Standards - Prohibition on Consideration of Legacy Preference

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

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0543, Institutions of Higher Education - Admissions Standards - Prohibition on Consideration of Legacy Preference

Legacy Preference is an acknowledged problem in providing the continuation of a biased economic system favoring those who already have advantages over those trying to move up in our society.

Bioethics Today has discussed the pernicious effects of legacy admissions in medical education.ⁱ The article concludes:

These concerns notwithstanding, legacy admissions are ethically problematic. Not only do they confer an unearned benefit on the student; they also undermine the widely agreed upon goal of getting more diverse applicants through our doors and into practice. At institutions where most of the graduates are White, considering legacy status essentially *assures* a continued struggle to improve the percentage of underrepresented in medicine (UiM) students who matriculate. What's more, legacy is not just a problem for rural, historically White medical schools: while the U.S. general population is increasingly diverse, with about 30% of Americans identifying as minorities, **fewer than 15% of matriculants to medical school identify as minorities**. Deeply ingrained legacy admissions processes exacerbate these problems of inequity.

The Washington Post reviewed the problem in an article published July 28, 2023.²

The Congress of the United States is also considering bills to deal with legacy admissions. Maryland can set an example for every state on how to treat legacy preferences.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0543.

ⁱ <https://bioethicstoday.org/blog/why-legacy-admissions-has-no-place-in-21st-century-medical-education%ef%bf%bc/#>

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/07/28/legacy-admissions-explained-harvard-lawsuit/>