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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0377- POSITION: FAVORABLE
Higher Education - Teacher Development and Retention Program – Definition

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#/0377, Higher Education - Teacher Development and Retention Program – Definition

As a senior student at Frederick Community College currently having earned three degrees from FCC over the last eight years I have been in classes where my classmates have declared they wish to matriculate to a four-year institution to study to become a teacher.

There is a critical shortage of teachers at all levels of education in school systems across the state. The Baltimore Banner documented these shortages in some of our county school systems.¹ If we are to remediate this problem, we as a state should look at the pupils who are beginning their post-secondary education in our community colleges. This bill will help provide resources to students who will continue their education and become the instructors we need now and in the future. By recognizing the role that community colleges can play in making learners become teachers Maryland can support those students and those institutions in solving problems in education instructors.

As a senior adult student, I have been privileged to interact with our young students and see the passion they have for learning and pursuing careers. This bill will make it more likely and possible for them to choose to become educators. If we are to continue to recognize and promote the career field of education this bill can and should be part of the solution that we adopt.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0377.

¹ <https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/education/k-12-schools/maryland-teacher-shortage-HKASK3IY7VFO3MJQC3U32DIX2Y/>