

01/23/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0184 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Nonpublic Schools – Transcripts – Prohibition on Punitive Measures Related to Student Debt

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means 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 HB#/0184, Nonpublic Schools – Transcripts – Prohibition on Punitive Measures Related to Student Debt

Acceptance of public monies for private educational activities should carry responsibilities in how those persons affected by that funding are treated. For example, a private school may be held responsible for discrimination in some cases. This bill says that an earned educational achievement as signified by a transcript of grades earned cannot be denied to a private school student in an institution using public funds. Said denial cannot occur based on debts that may be owed by the student or student's parents to that private school.

There are alternate avenues for pursuing payment of debts that are based on the existence of a debt. These avenues do not contemplate withholding of vital documentation earned during the accumulation of the debt. In some cases, it is the parent that has the responsibility to satisfy the financial obligation; the student should be held harmless while the debt payment is being negotiated. A student's future should not be a hostage to this debt.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0184.