

**HB0490\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV**

02/24/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0490- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Education - The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Revisions**

**TO:** Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and members of the Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0490, Education - The Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Revisions**

Adjustments need to be made to the Blueprint plans in response to current financial conditions in Maryland. Many of these are created by conditions from Federal actions and inactions that support education funding.

The loss or freezing of federal funding poses significant risks to the implementation of the **Blueprint for Maryland's Future**, a 10-year, \$3.8 billion annual initiative designed to overhaul public education. Because Maryland is highly dependent on federal funds—receiving about \$30 billion in total federal support in FY2024, with roughly 20% of it impacting state operations—reductions threaten to stall progress on mandated, high-cost reforms.<sup>1</sup>

Key effects of reduced federal funding on the Blueprint include:

- **Immediate Program Cuts**
- **Stalled Implementation & Staff Reductions**
- **Pressure on Local Budgets**
- **Impacting "At-Risk" Students**
- **Threat to Pre-K Expansion**

**Contextual Factors:**

- **Potential Recession**
- **Legal Challenges**
- **Rising Costs**

In recognition of these challenges this bill will repeal a requirement that county boards of education submit a certain technology report each year; extending the time period during which a certain method is used to calculate compensatory education enrollment through fiscal year 2027; repealing a termination date for the use of funds under the Concentration of Poverty Grant Program for the purpose of providing certain programs; altering the qualifications for an initial teacher certificate; etc.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0490.**

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<sup>1</sup> Google AI Search "effects of loss of federal funding on the Blueprint for Maryland's future"