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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0099- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Open Meetings Act - County Boards of Education - Enhanced Requirements (Local Boards of Education Transparency Act)

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, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0099, Open Meetings Act - County Boards of Education - Enhanced Requirements (Local Boards of Education Transparency Act)

This bill increases transparency in the conduct of public business by Maryland counties and Baltimore City on their school boards. It adds to the historical record of actions they have taken that can assist in reviewing past actions to see the genesis of those decisions. That information can assist in guiding both members of the school board and the public in creating new or modifications of existing policies that meet the moment to serve parents, students, teachers and all persons interacting with the school systems.

These policies will be promulgated by establishing enhanced requirements under the Open Meetings Act for county boards of education and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners; requiring the county boards and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to maintain on their respective websites a complete and unedited archived video recording of each open meeting for which live video streaming was made available for a minimum of 5 years after the date of the meeting; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0099.