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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0539- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Institutions of Higher Education - Student Withdrawal Policy - Reimbursement of Tuition and Fees (Cameron Carden Act of 2024)

TO: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Appropriations 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#/0539, Public Institutions of Higher Education - Student Withdrawal Policy - Reimbursement of Tuition and Fees (Cameron Carden Act of 2024)

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 an emergency family situation has caused a fellow student to withdraw from our class.

A sudden withdrawal by a student is, in an emergency, facing a crisis in which financial resources can make a difference. This bill recognizes that life happens and requires our institutions of higher learning to make allowances for that situation. The reimbursement of tuition and fees can be a lifeline in some instances and may permit the student to resume their education when that emergency has passed.

This bill is an ethical and moral commitment to support every student when something beyond their control makes continuing their students impossible.

. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0539.