

CROSSOVER BILL HB1164_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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**TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB1164 – FAVORABLE
Nonpublic Schools – Transcripts – Prohibition on Punitive Measures Related to Student
Debt**

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of CROSSOVER BILL HB1164, Nonpublic Schools – Transcripts – Prohibition on Punitive Measures Related to Student Debt

Non-public schools that participate in State-funded education programs should not be permitted to use a student's accomplishment of educational achievement, a transcript, as a bargaining chip if the student or the student's parent or guardian is in debt to that institution. The denial of the provision of the requested document affects future educational or employment for the student affected. Whether the denial is made to a current or former student the harm is the same; this is an unconscionable and predatory way to collect debt owed to that non-public school by holding a document hostage to debt payments.

There are other legal avenues available to institutions that are owed a debt that has not been satisfied. This bill will eliminate a method to force debt repayment that is not directly relevant to the person seeking the document that proves that the education, paid or owed, was completed.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass CROSSOVER BILL HB1164.