

1/31/2024

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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0116 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Teacher Degree Apprenticeship

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#/0116, Teacher Degree Apprenticeship

I am proud to support this bill introduced by my Delegate Ken Kerr. It recognizes the problem throughout Maryland as reported by Maryland Matters in March 2023. “Currently, every [school district plan](#) notes that help is needed to recruit, hire and retain teachers in all levels of special education, that there’s a lack of certified or qualified teacher applicants and a limited number of college graduates entering the teaching profession.”

This bill is a tool Maryland can and should implement to help alleviate this shortage by assisting students who can be offered the opportunity to enter the education field as a career. It can serve to widen the pool of possible future educators by supporting students who choose to pursue educational opportunities and become the instructors that Maryland desperately needs.

The importance of finding the numbers of teachers we need now and, in the future, will help us meet some of the goals of the Blueprint for Education. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0116.**