

SB0451_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON SB#0451 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Adult Education - High School Diploma by Examination - Requirements and Study

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

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ **SB#/0451, Adult Education - High School Diploma by Examination - Requirements and Study**

Maryland Physicians Care has noted that: ¹

Marylanders who speak only English population is 4,611,882 which is 79.30% of the population. There are 42 other languages or groupings of languages spoken in Maryland.

Acknowledging that this paradigm exists, and that having an educated populace in Maryland is a core function and goal of Maryland this bill promotes that goal.

This bill will require the Maryland Department of Labor to allow an individual to take all components of the General Educational Development Test in the language of their choice. It will mandate a requirement for the Department to study the feasibility and cost of offering the examination in additional languages and to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2026.

The results of those findings will guide future actions to be taken to resolve this situation.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0451.

¹ https://www.marylandphysicianscare.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Maryland-Physicians-Care-Statewide-Language-Profile_FINAL_Aug2024.pdf