SB0435_RichardKaplowitz_FAV 03/05/2025 Richard Keith Kaplowitz Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0435 – FAVORABLE

Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators (Remove Discrimination in Education 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 K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0435, Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators (Remove Discrimination in Education Act)

While the administration in Washington and their allies are dedicated to rolling back all of the gains the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has given to American society this bill says that Maryland will resist those efforts.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.¹

This act was passed to fight the systemic racism present in American society and provide for the full integration of our society, in every way, for the minority groups that had been suppressed from full participation in our country. Despite attempts to reinterpret the act for fortification of a white majority control of America that is not what this act is intended to do.

This bill requires the governing board of each institution of higher education in the State and local school systems to designate a Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. It adds a requirement to enforce the act by authorizing a person alleging discrimination under certain provisions of law to file a complaint with a Title VI Coordinator of a local school system, as applicable.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0435.

1

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/title_vi_civil_rights#:~:text=Title%20VI%20of%20t he%20Civil%20Rights%20Act%20of%201964%20provides,activity%20receiving%20federal%20financial%20assistan ce.