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**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0118- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact**

**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, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0118, **Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact**

The Maryland State Education Association recognizes the shortage of teachers in Maryland. <sup>1</sup>

The most vexing problem facing nearly every community across the nation is the dwindling educator pipeline. Whether a community is experiencing this shortage now or bracing for it in the near future, it's a crisis that must be addressed through an equitable and just public-school model that funds the cost of more highly qualified and diverse educators.

However, due to the budget shortfall requiring adjustments to the Blueprint for Education additional solutions to this staffing shortfall should also be considered.

This bill will repeal certain provisions of law relating to the Interstate Agreement on Qualifications of Educational Personnel. It will acknowledge that providing that certain provisions of law regarding the issuance of an initial teaching certificate do not apply to certain teachers. It will facilitate entering into the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact for the purpose of authorizing regulated teachers who hold multistate licenses to teach in each member state can teach in Maryland. It will generate the establishment of requirements for multistate licensure and provide a certain contingency requirement to govern the process.

We cannot solve our class size problem without sufficient teachers in place for the classes. This bill is one of many paths we should be taking to solve that quandary.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0118.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://marylandeducators.org/solving-the-educator-shortage-expanding-and-diversifying-the-profession/>