

HB0214\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/24/2026

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**TESTIMONY ON HB#0214 – FAVORABLE**

**Higher Education - Academic Forgiveness Policy – Established**

**TO:** Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser and members of the Appropriations 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 HB#0214, Higher Education - Academic Forgiveness Policy – Established**

This bill recognizes that too often, students enrolled in institutions of higher education do not appreciate the value of their higher education experiences and, following a brief history of poor and failing grades, such students decide to pursue interests outside the academic world. Following a considerable passage of time, former students have a greater appreciation of higher educational opportunities and may seek to return to the institution only to find that the grades they acquired during their earlier experience act as a barrier and hindrance to their academic progress. So the purpose of this bill is to provide a mechanism for institutions of higher education to disregard the records of such students that prevent or impede their academic success. This bill recognizes that a student may acquire greater maturity and better skills after some time pursuing interests outside the academic world and decide to return to their abandoned studies.

The purpose of the bill is to provide a second chance to proceed with an academic study program for a returning student.

This bill meets that goal by requiring institutions of higher education to develop and implement an academic forgiveness policy on or before August 1, 2026, that applies to applicants who earned unsatisfactory or failing grades at a prior institution of higher education under certain circumstances.

In Maryland, we leave no one behind, and this law affirms that belief.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0214.**