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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0233- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Education - Public School Construction – Alterations

TO: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser and members of the Appropriations 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#/0233, Education - Public School Construction - Alterations

The intent of this bill is to provide more certainty to local Boards of Education to undertake projects, including school construction, on a timelier basis to react to critical needs and conditions in their jurisdiction.

It will accomplish that goal by clarifying the type of proposals and plans that require the approval of the State Superintendent of Schools; requiring a county board of education to request and receive approval from the State Superintendent before a county board may proceed with certain actions; authorizing the Interagency Commission on School Construction to adopt requirements for eligibility for certain State funding; repealing the requirement for the Commission to approve 75% of the preliminary school construction allocation by a certain date; etc.

For fast growing school systems such as Frederick County, this flexibility is required to adjust to the rapid growth within our system that has led to schools being over capacity. That affects the quality of the education that school can offer. This bill provides new paths to react to that problem.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0233.