

HB0562_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/24/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0562 – FAVORABLE

**Primary and Secondary Education - Maintenance of Effort - Inflation Adjustment
(Maintenance of Effort Modernization Act)**

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#0562, Primary and Secondary Education - Maintenance of Effort - Inflation Adjustment (Maintenance of Effort Modernization Act)

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) in Maryland is a state law requiring county governments to fund local school systems with at least the same amount of funding *per pupil* as the prior fiscal year. This ensures consistent local investment, preventing districts from reducing education funding, and sets a minimum per-student spending floor that can increase but not decrease.¹

This bill will account for inflation's effects on that per pupil funding formula. It will require that the county governing body appropriate local funds to the school operating budget in an amount no less than the product, increased by the inflation adjustment, of the county's enrollment count for the current fiscal year and the local appropriation on a per pupil basis for the prior fiscal year using enrollment count.

This will occur when this bill alters the method for calculating the maintenance of effort amount county governing bodies are required to appropriate to the school operating budget by requiring an annual inflation adjustment.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0562.

¹ Google AI Search "What is the maintenance of effort in maryland schools"