

HB0839_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/19/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz Frederick,
MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0839- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Frederick Community College - Board of Trustees - Meeting and Training Requirements

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#0839, **Frederick Community College - Board of Trustees - Meeting and Training Requirements**

This bill is a priority for the Frederick County delegation Senators.

It is submitted in reaction to the decision of the Frederick Community College Board of Trustees to close the on campus childcare center with little community involvement or ability to be heard in public forums or open meetings of the trustees.

The Frederick NewsPost reported on the *FCC Children's Center remains closed even after parent advisory council formed*¹

After months of advocacy from parents and former teachers, the Children's Center at Frederick Community College (FCC) will remain closed for the foreseeable future. Jessica Lertora has a 1-year-old daughter who used to attend the Children's Center daily. She has been leading the parents' fight to reopen. Lertora was initially pleased when FCC decided to form a parent advisory council, but after three meetings, she feels a solution won't be found.

Lertora claims FCC administration and Board of Trustees members were absent from most meetings and that there was a lack of communication from the college as they worked to come up with solutions to reopen the center.

This bill increases the ability of the public to understand how these critical decisions are being made by opening the process to the community.

This bill will establish certain public comment requirements and recording requirements for the Board of Community College Trustees for Frederick County; and require the members of the Board to undergo certain training.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0839.

¹ https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/education/schools/higher_ed/frederick_community_college/fcc-childrens-center-remains-closed-even-after-parent-advisory-council-formed/article_13f27572-ce5e-593b-8908-ffc235f10003.html