

HB0976\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

03/11/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0976- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Primary and Secondary Education - Funding Accuracy and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment Count - Alterations and Report (Education Funding Accuracy Act)**

**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#0976, **Primary and Secondary Education - Funding Accuracy and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment Count - Alterations and Report (Education Funding Accuracy Act)**

Frederick County has the fastest growing school system in Maryland. With that growth has come significant funding challenges for those new students due to the current formula for funding of our students. The definition currently being utilized creates an inherent disadvantage to our system and the school systems in other areas within the state that have a growth curve. The current system does not have money for the new students reaching the counties affected until the following school year.

This bill will assist in removing these significant financial challenges local school systems have in providing for their new student populations.

This bill will accomplish that purpose by altering the definition of "full-time equivalent enrollment" in the calculation for State education aid to include the average number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 on September 30 and May 31 of the prior school year; requiring the State Department of Education to publish online and submit a certain report to certain standing committees of the General Assembly; and applying the Act to the calculation of education funding for fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2027.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0976.**