

HB0538_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0538 – FAVORABLE

Institutions of Higher Education - Mandatory Disclosures for New and Prospective Students (Informed Enrollment 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#0538, Institutions of Higher Education - Mandatory Disclosures for New and Prospective Students (Informed Enrollment Act)

As summarized by A.I., The United States Department of Education College Scoreboard

The U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard is a free online tool designed to help students and families compare the cost and value of higher education institutions. The platform provides standardized data for every college and university in the country that participates in federal financial aid programs. Key data points include:

- **Costs:** Average annual net price (after grants and scholarships), tuition, and fees.
- **Student Debt:** Median total debt after graduation and typical monthly loan payments.
- **Earnings:** Median earnings of former students one year after graduation, broken down by field of study (major).
- **Academic Outcomes:** Graduation and retention rates.
- **Demographics:** Student body diversity and socio-economic composition (percentage of students receiving Pell Grants).

This bill is submitted to ensure first-time undergraduate students are made aware of this resource. It will accomplish that purpose by requiring each institution of higher education in the State that admits first-time undergraduate students to prominently display on its publicly accessible prospective student website a link to the U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard website and share related information in a certain manner.

This bill is a consumer protection measure for these new higher education students.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0538.