

SB0764_RichardKaplowitz_FWA

03/03/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0764- POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH
AMENDMENTS**

Education – Minimum Wage for Education Support Professionals

TO: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation 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 with amendments of SB#0764, **Education – Minimum Wage for Education Support Professionals**

While I agree that we are underpaying education support professionals throughout the state of Maryland this bill's one fits all needs modification. The cost of living varies in different areas of Maryland as does the ability of jurisdictions to fully fund this mandate for increasing wages.

I favor amending the bill to provide flexibility on the minimum wage based on prevailing wage scales and costs of living in a jurisdiction. Additionally, a formula for state assistance funding for this change needs to be determined to avoid disruption in jurisdictions budgets for their overall school funding needs.

This bill will establish a minimum wage rate of at least \$25 per hour to be paid by county boards of education to certain education support professionals beginning on July 1, 2028; and requiring the State Department of Education to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2026, on an estimate of the total cost of implementing a \$25 per hour minimum wage for education support professionals.

Once that data on the total cost of implementation of the worthy goals within this bill to each jurisdiction's school systems the amount of the minimum wage should be adjusted to a wage scale appropriate to the situation within each jurisdiction.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable with amendments report on SB#0764.