

SB0316_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0316 – FAVORABLE

**Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI
Coordinators**

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment 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 SB#0316, Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators

This bill is submitted due to the Federal government’s illegal reinterpretation of the meaning and history of Title VI in education. The Education Department now considers this law to be in support of diversity, equity and inclusion and is dropping all support for its use for its original purpose.

As reported in the K-12 Dive newsletter *Education Department doubles down on anti-DEI efforts*

The agency said it would continue to target DEI programs “with or without” a policy letter that set its interpretation of Title VI but was blocked in court.

The U.S. Department of Education will continue to target diversity, equity and inclusion programs in schools under Title VI despite a court block on its controversial anti-DEI Dear Colleague letter.

That letter, issued a year ago, announced the department’s policy interpreting Title VI — which protects students from discrimination based on race, ethnicity and national origin — [to prohibit DEI programs](#).¹

This bill declares that Maryland will follow the interpretation of the law that has existed, prior to the current Federal administration, since 1964. It will accomplish this by requiring the governing board of each institution of higher education in the State and local school systems to designate a Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and authorizing a person alleging discrimination under certain provisions of law to file a complaint with a Title VI Coordinator of a local school system, as applicable.

In Maryland, we leave no one behind and this law affirms that belief.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0316.

¹ <https://www.k12dive.com/news/education-department-doubles-down-on-anti-dei-efforts/811276/>