

HB0160_Crossover_Bill_Richard
Kaplowitz_FAV 04/02/2026
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**TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#0160 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
State and Local Government - Real Property - Confederate Naming Prohibited**

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of crossover bill HB#0160, **State and Local Government - Real Property - Confederate Naming Prohibited**

This bill will prohibit a State entity or a political subdivision of the State from assigning a Confederate name to real property owned by the State or political subdivision.

Despite arguments to the contrary the verdict of most historians is that the Civil War was fought to preserve the institution of slavery in those states in rebellion. The American Battlefield Trust declared: ¹

The American Civil War was fought between the United States of America and the Confederate States of America, a collection of eleven southern states that left the Union in 1860 and 1861. The conflict began primarily as a result of the long-standing disagreement over the institution of slavery.

As such, the application of the name of a confederate is perceived as honoring someone who either was an enslaver or supported that institution. Justice and decency demand that those persons not be honored or commemorated outside a historical context and presentation.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on crossover bill HB0160.

¹ <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/10-facts-what-everyone-should-know-about-civil-war>