

SB0420\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
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**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0420 – FAVORABLE**

**Public Institutions of Higher Education - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Plan and Reporting**

**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#0420, Public Institutions of Higher Education - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Plan and Reporting**

This bill will require the Maryland Higher Education Commission to collect certain data regarding the parental status of students from each public institution of higher education in the State; requiring public institutions of higher education to collect and report certain demographic data from students; and requiring all public institutions of higher education to adopt a certain plan for pregnant and parenting students.

The Institute for Women’s Policy Research has studied this and developed excellent reasons to collect this information in support of government objectives.

While promoting student-parent success has mainly been left to institutions of higher education, several states have considered or adopted a range of policy initiatives to support student parents in postsecondary education. This paper provides state policy stakeholders, including governors, state agencies, and advocates, with a snapshot of the multitude of issues faced by student parents and with options to utilize state policy to address these issues. <sup>1</sup>

This legislation adds a commonsense methodology to accumulate data to guide government policy and funding by the schools, the jurisdiction they are in, and the state. The NPR report “*What the 'One Big Beautiful Bill' will change for students, schools and colleges*” <sup>2</sup> clearly explains all the effects of Federal cutbacks that will affect this population. Collection of demographic information can help the state budget to assist educational institutions to provide the necessary support to mitigate this Federal abandonment of our parent and pregnant students.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0420.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Student-Parent-State-Policy-Brief-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/18/nx-s1-5459784/trump-school-college-student>