

SEIU Local 500 - Testimony in Support of HB 160 Se

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

Position: FAV



Testimony - HB 160, State and Local Government - Real Property - Confederate
Naming Prohibited
Favorable
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
April 2, 2026
Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairman Feldman & Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SEIU Local 500, which represents thousands of public sector and nonprofit workers across Maryland, including early childhood educators, school support staff, college faculty, and other public servants strongly supports House Bill 160.

SEIU Local 500 believes that taxpayer dollars should never be used to honor treason, rebellion, or the violent defense of human bondage. The Confederacy was an armed insurrection against the United States, formed explicitly to preserve slavery. Naming public property after the Confederacy or those who voluntarily served it amounts to state-sanctioned reverence for a cause fundamentally incompatible with democracy, equality, and the rule of law.

HB 160 draws a clear and necessary line by prohibiting State and local governments from assigning Confederate names to publicly owned real property. This bill ensures that Maryland does not continue—or restart—the practice of using public resources to legitimize or celebrate a treasonous regime that sought to dismantle the United States and deny basic rights to millions of people.

For our members, this issue is not symbolic—it is material. SEIU Local 500 members work in schools, libraries, public buildings, and community spaces that are funded by taxpayer dollars and meant to serve everyone. No worker should be required to report to a workplace, or serve the public in a facility that bears the name of individuals who fought to uphold slavery and racial terror. Public property should reflect shared civic values, not glorify rebellion against the Constitution.

HB 160 also makes clear that this prohibition applies prospectively, respecting existing naming decisions while ensuring that future public investments do not repeat the mistakes of the past. This is a reasonable, forward-looking approach that protects historical context without endorsing historical wrongdoing.

At a time when extremist ideologies and historical revisionism are again gaining traction, Maryland has an obligation to be explicit about what—and whom—we honor with public funds. Taxpayer dollars should support public service, education, and community wellbeing, not the commemoration of those who took up arms against the United States.

HB 160 affirms a simple principle: there should be no monuments, buildings, streets, or public spaces named in honor of treason—and no public dollars spent to do so.

SEIU Local 500 respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 160.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB160 Favorable 2026.pdf

Uploaded by: Debi Jasen

Position: FAV

Education, Energy, and the Environment
House Bill 160
Favorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee;

Please give House Bill 160 a favorable report.

The “Confederate States of America” engaged in treason, and Confederates worked to further their white supremacist ideals. Nothing should ever be named after those racists. The majority of the Maryland General Assembly have repeatedly voted against bigotry in the past. Please continue this trend of rejecting white nationalism. I urge a vote for House Bill 160. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

House Bill 160 Favorable One Pasadena 2026.pdf

Uploaded by: John Jasen

Position: FAV

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
House Bill 160
Favorable Report

Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee;

We, the Steering Committee of neighborhood group One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community, request a favorable report for House Bill 160.

Maryland should stand firmly against white supremacy and those who uphold white supremacist ideals. This includes those who participated in defending the enslavement of Black people. Confederates deserve contempt, not memorials to their racist actions. Naming property after people who supported institutions that denied rights and basic respect to people based on skin color would give mixed signals about this state's values, and could cause trauma.

In Pasadena, there are houses and pickup trucks that display Confederate flags. There are people who wanted a middle school to keep the name of a segregationist. There are individuals who continue to defend slavery, or who argue that the Civil War had nothing to do with enslavement at all. You can't control what's in the hearts and minds, or in the yards or on the vehicles of people, but you can certainly control the names of some types of property.

Please give House Bill 160 a favorable report. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
The One Pasadena Steering Committee
Pasadena, Maryland

HB160- State and Local Government – Real Property

Uploaded by: Matthew Schindler

Position: FAV

MATTHEW J. SCHINDLER
Legislative District 2B
Washington County

Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and Ethics
Labor

Local Government/Bi-County Agencies
and Administration

House Study Group on Economic Stability



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB160: State and Local Government – Real Property – Confederate Naming Prohibited
Education, Energy and Environment Committee

April 2nd, 2026: 1:00 PM

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice-Chair, and honorable members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, I am Delegate Matthew J. Schindler, and I am here to present House Bill 160.

HB160 prohibits the State or political subdivision of the State from assigning Confederate names to public property. Let me be clear: there is absolutely no reason for Maryland to continue honoring or edifying the Confederacy through the names of our streets, buildings, parks, or public spaces.

Confederate names have a place in textbooks, museums, and on battlefields where history is examined and taught. They do not belong on the signs that mark our neighborhoods, schools, or civic spaces. These names are symbols of a rebellion fought to preserve slavery and represent a dark chapter in our nation's history. For many Marylanders they are a source of deep and ongoing pain.

The names we choose for public property are statements about who we honor and what we value. Our public spaces should reflect Maryland's shared values of inclusion, equality, and respect—not symbols that divide, exclude, or glorify oppression. Continuing to affix Confederate names to public property does not preserve history; it elevates it in ways that are inappropriate and unnecessary.

This bill is simple, forward-looking, and carries no cost. It does not erase history, it places it where it belongs, as something to be studied and learned from, not celebrated. HB 160 ensures that future naming decisions align with our values and prevents the continued public honoring of Confederate symbolism.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on House Bill 160.

Respectfully,

Matthew J. Schindler

Delegate Matthew J. Schindler

District 2B

HB0160 - crossover bill - FAV -Confederate Naming

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

HB0160_Crossover_Bill_Richard
Kaplowitz_FAV 04/02/2026
Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**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>

HB 160_ State and Local Government - Real Propert

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

HB 160: State and Local Government - Real Property - Confederate Naming
Prohibited: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing as a concerned resident of Maryland to strongly oppose **HB 160**.

Maryland already has processes for naming and renaming public property through elected officials and community input. **This legislation imposes a broad, one-size-fits-all ban on an entire category of historical references, regardless of context, educational value, or local sentiment.** It restricts the ability of future elected leaders and citizens to honor aspects of American history — including military history, Southern heritage, or specific individuals — simply because they are associated with the Confederacy at a key point in our country's history.

My main concerns include:

- **Local control:** Decisions about naming parks, roads, buildings, or other public real property should remain with local governments and communities, not dictated by Annapolis through blanket prohibitions.
- **Historical erasure:** This bill sets a precedent for government to selectively censor or restrict references to parts of our shared history based on current political preferences, rather than allowing open debate and contextual education.
- **Slippery slope:** Once government starts banning certain historical names, it becomes easier to target other periods, figures, or events, undermining free expression and cultural heritage.

Maryland residents deserve the freedom to preserve and debate history through their locally elected representatives, without top-down mandates that prioritize one ideological view over balanced remembrance.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 160** and any similar efforts to restrict naming rights on public property.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals