

HB0649_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/24/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0649- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Advancing Equal Educational Opportunities for All Students in Maryland

TO: Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor and Elections 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 of HB#/0649, **Advancing Equal Educational Opportunities for All Students in Maryland**

If Maryland is to live up to the declaration that “In Maryland, we leave no one behind” this bill is mandatory in reaction to the actions of the Federal Administration against civil rights in education.

As documented by MS. Magazine: ¹

Federal Civil Rights Protections for Students Are Being Hollowed Out (PUBLISHED 1/28/2026 by [Emily Taylor](#)) - Civil rights rollbacks in education are part of a broader effort to reassert patriarchal control over who learns, teaches and works.

At least 25,000 unresolved civil rights complaints involving race, gender and disability discrimination are currently stalled as the Trump administration [moves to dismantle the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights](#)—leaving students in K-12 schools and colleges with few viable paths to federal protection. Through executive orders, mass staff reductions, and the closure of seven of the department’s 12 regional offices, enforcement of civil rights law in education has been effectively hollowed out.

This bill will, for Maryland resident, authorize the Commission on Civil Rights to enforce a prohibition against discrimination and retaliation in educational institutions based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or marital status; establishing the powers, duties, and limitations of the authority of the Commission on Civil Rights to enforce the prohibition against educational discrimination; establishing a private right of action; etc.

Maryland can, and must, retain the protections being removed by the Federal Government.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0649.

¹ <https://msmagazine.com/2026/01/28/department-of-education-office-for-civil-rights-trump-students-young-women-college-university/>