

HB0128_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/05/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0128- POSITION: FAVORABLE

County Boards of Education - Therapy Dogs - Policy for Handling and Use in Schools

TO: Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and members of the Ways and Means 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#/0128, **County Boards of Education - Therapy Dogs - Policy for Handling and Use in Schools**

As a student at Frederick Community College I have personal experience with therapy dogs. My friend, Diego, is a joy to interact with every time we encounter each other. Who is Diego?
*Companion dog on community college campus brightens spirits in Frederick*¹

FREDERICK, Md. ([DC News Now](#)) — Chances are on a visit to Frederick Community College, you will encounter Diego, or “Diggy,” a companion dog.

You might refer to him as the staff canine. However, he is family as far as folks on campus are concerned.

Staff at the school refer to Diggy as a “wellness ambassador,” and it doesn’t take much for him to brighten your mood.

Diggy is referred to as a “companion” dog or “facility” dog, as opposed to a therapy dog, because he is just on campus to hang out, brighten the mood, lift spirits and be a source of fun.

Yet, for many students and staff, encounters with Diego are therapeutic for them.

This bill will require a county board of education to allow, subject to certain requirements and policies, the use of therapy dogs in public schools in the county.

Having seen and felt the impact that a dog on campus can have on myself and my fellow students, all of it positive, I wholeheartedly endorse this bill.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0128.

¹ https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/companion-dog-community-college-campus-203049132.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAHwIxYNNi7MFjURZHoVE8x2Sxw51L0e9-QGhKSE6BMXczh8I5WoHyhZIXdEtY8rpGxMIYGIFJ1e4BHxsVtkaWhwiVKed81Z52NtmBwUAvGUeelXRIURp4V-Fh8cxOL_FzpjJuA86N-0BZ6GQhV1a7aq5ucn-g2uOYpfvDkHRiA72

