

HB0531\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/18/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0531- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Public Schools STEM and Robotics Program Task Force – Establishment**

**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#/0531, **Public Schools STEM and Robotics Program Task Force – Establishment**

The Space Foundation has encouraged that we *Explore the Seven Benefits of Robotics in Education for Students*<sup>1</sup> STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

1. Robotics Can Improve Proficiency and Enthusiasm for STEAM
2. Students Will Engage With Other STEAM Activities
3. Robotics Help Build Teamwork and Improve Communication Skills
4. Robotics Can Teach Critical Learning Skills
5. Robotics Creates a Space For Inclusive Learning
6. Students Can Learn How To Pace Their Work
7. Robotics Projects Can Prepare Students For The Workforce

This bill agrees with those benefits and mandates we collect information about these programs in our public schools to guide further decisions in support of possible expansions and growth in these fields.

This bill will establish the Public Schools STEM and Robotics Program Task Force to collect information on and study existing STEM and robotics programs in public schools in the State and in other states to determine the feasibility of establishing competitive STEM and robotics programs as varsity sports in every public school throughout the State; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations, by December 15, 2026, to certain committees of the General Assembly.

Maryland has a chance to make the future happen here in our state by educating our students in these technologies of the future.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0531.**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.spacefoundation.org/2023/01/04/7-benefits-of-robotics-for-students/>