

HB0800_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/18/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0800- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Education - Behavioral Health and Student Well-Being and Human Flourishing (Maryland Student Well-Being and Flourishing Act)

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#/0800, Education - Behavioral Health and Student Well-Being and Human Flourishing (Maryland Student Well-Being and Flourishing Act)

This bill will redefine, in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, behavioral health to be inclusive of student well-being and human flourishing. It will define that term as:

... means a student's progress and success along each of the following eight dimensions of well-being identified by the federal substance abuse and mental health services administration:

- social well-being
- environmental well-being
- physical well-being
- spiritual well-being
- occupational well-being
- intellectual well-being
- financial well-being.

It will state that each local school system shall appoint a behavioral health services coordinator.

This bill will accomplish this redefinition by updating certain provisions of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future that refer to "behavioral health" to be inclusive of "student well-being and human flourishing"; and amending the purposes, membership, and duties of the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports to include the furtherance of student well-being and human flourishing.

The Blueprint can increase the flourishing of these measures of well-being in the students in Maryland by passing this bill.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0800.