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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0937 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program - Established

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0937, Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program - Established

I am proud to support this bill as part of Governor Moore's emphasis on service. "Currently, every [school district plan](#) notes that help is needed to recruit, hire and retain teachers in all levels of special education, that there's a lack of certified or qualified teacher applicants and a limited number of college graduates entering the teaching profession."

This bill is a tool Maryland can and should implement to help alleviate this shortage by assisting students who can be offered the opportunity to enter the education field as a career. It can serve to widen the pool of possible future educators by supporting students who choose to pursue educational opportunities and become the instructors that Maryland desperately needs. In exchange for financial assistance to become teachers the person commits to using that education to serve Maryland students. It provides compensation opportunities to earn while you learn including benefits that further increase the value of participation in the program.

The importance of finding the numbers of teachers we need now and, in the future, will help us meet some of the goals of the Blueprint for Education. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0937.**