

SB0291_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#0291 - FAVORABLE
Persons Doing Public Business – Disclosure Requirements

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

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0291, Persons Doing Public Business – Disclosure Requirements

Health care for Maryland residents is being affected by the acquisition by private equity firms of health care facilities. As reported by NBC News, “Private equity firms are buying up hospitals, nursing homes and ER operations. The drive for profits can run counter to helping patients, critics say.”

My son is a patient in a long-term care facility. Since it’s takeover by a private equity firm the level of care has significantly degraded. The facility says it is a staffing problem but the staff they are hiring and incapable of properly performing their jobs. My son has a severe allergy to seafood yet the kitchen staff has sent him dinners containing seafood even though his dining instructions, available to them, notes his allergy. My son and I are convinced that the current management is devoted to profit and not to patient care.

This bill will make it possible for the state to find and deal with the actual ownership of companies that hide themselves behind layers of dummy companies and shell companies. Once the miscreants are aware that we can and will find them hopefully the state will be able to secure better treatment of Marylanders in facilities receiving funds from the state.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0291.