

2/13/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0800- POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2024 – Counties and Municipalities**

**TO:** Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, 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. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0800, Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2024 – Counties and Municipalities**

One of the main requirements of citizenship and an awesome responsibility is the right to vote. A vote is the citizen's voice on how they wish themselves and their community to be governed.

Maryland is an increasingly diverse state. People come from all over the world to our state and undertake the journey to citizenship in the United States. For many their native language and customs are primary considerations in how they adapt and integrate into the community. Over 20% of Marylanders have a native language other than English.

This bill's purpose is to forbid erecting any barrier to political participation in local governments within Maryland caused by language related barriers being erected. It mandates solutions that remove those impediments as a requirement from the state and local boards of election. It upholds the right to vote for every eligible citizen removing language-based restrictions to that right.

This bill is an ethical and moral commitment to support every voter in their journey to election participation as the best possible resident, and citizen, within our state and our country.

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