

HB0858\_RichardKaplowitz\_UNF  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#0858 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE**  
**Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Waiting Period**

**TO:** Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB#0858, Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Waiting Period**

This bill attempts to convince a woman to not pursue an abortion based on government insistance that she have a specific medical procedure required for accessing an abortion. It substitutes the government instead of a medical judgment between a woman and her doctor on what is the best course of action for her pregnancy.

It assumes that abortions occur, not through a choice by the woman, but because she is uninformed on a theological view of what is occuring in her body and progress of her pregnancy. It removes medical and personal moral judgment in favor of a government mandate on how her reproductive freedom is to be exercised . It assumes the woman will be disauded from choosing the abortion if only we can increase pressure on her into making another choice. It treats the woman as someone whose free will msut be subject to government influence to make the choice favored, on a theological basis, by the government. This bill makes it seem that abortions are not chosen by a woman exercising her free will over her own reproduction.

Maryland must remove restrictions on abortion and treat it as a choice between a woman and her doctor with or without consultation of partners, clergy, or especially the government. This bill tries to define it as a choice she cannot or will not make without government interference.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB0858.**