

CROSSOVER BILL SB0578_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
3/12/2022

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TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL SB#0578 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

**Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program -
Funding**

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 support of CROSSOVER BILL SB#0578, Professional and Volunteer Firefighter
Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program - Funding**

This bill is personal for me. My daughter-in-law is a professional firefighter in Montgomery
County. She has shared stories with me of the exposure to chemicals fighting fires in multiple
environments causing high rates of cancer in her co-workers.

This bill will fund the application of the most advanced technologies in diagnosis and treatment of
cancers in our first responders. First responders put their health and safety on the line to protect
the lives and property of their communities. We owe them a debt for their selfless actions. This
bill will say that Maryland values them and their lives and wants the best technology available to
help them maintain their own health and receive prompt treatment when cancer is detected that
likely was a result of their occupation.

This bill makes a moral statement. My Jewish faith reminds me, in Proverbs 17:17 “At all times,
love a friend, for he is born a brother for adversity”. This bill expresses the communities love for
and desire to take care of those who take great care of us.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on CROSSOVER BILL
SB0578.**