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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0124 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Employment Standards - Firefighters - Payment of Wages and Payroll Information

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB#/0124, Employment Standards - Firefighters - Payment of Wages and Payroll Information

This bill is an attempt to ensure that our first responders, who put their lives on the line to take care of their community, are properly compensated for the essential work they are doing. It creates transparency on the computation of overtime pay as well as detailed information for that firefighter's access to more complete information about their pay and benefits.

It would also give the firefighter or their exclusive representative the authorization for initiation of a grievance complaint when the county or municipality fails to provide the required payroll information. As the father-in-law of a Montgomery County Fire Department Captain I want to be sure she is treated fairly and respectfully for the vital services she provides to the community.

This bill will strengthen the ability of the firefighters to be fully informed about their compensation and will facilitate actions if that full information is not made available to them.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0124