

SB0608_Crossover Bill_
RichardKaplowitz_FWA
03/26/2025
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**TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL SB#0608 - POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH
AMENDMENTS**

Criminal Procedure - U Nonimmigrant Status Petitions

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support with its amendments of crossover bill SB0608, Criminal Procedure - U Nonimmigrant Status Petitions

This bill passed the Senate with amendments 32-12 on 03/17/25, there was no cross-filed bill.

This bill will assist law enforcement by adding protections for undocumented immigrants who are assisting law enforcement in the identification of criminal actions and prosecutions of involved individuals.

The U nonimmigrant status (U visa) is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.¹

This bill will assist in the process by altering the requirements for certification of a U Nonimmigrant Status Petition. It will add to the populations affected by criminal activities by altering the individuals eligible to request a certain official to certify victim helpfulness relating to certification of a U Nonimmigrant Status Petition. It will extend the timeline on these actions through altering the time periods within which a certain certifying entity shall certify or decline a certain form under certain circumstances. Finally, it will assist in creation of policies and procedures for the program by requiring a certifying entity to develop protocols to assist certain petitioners to take certain actions.

This bill can and will strengthen the ties between undocumented individuals and law enforcement by providing incentives to report crimes without fear of reprisals.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report with its amendments on crossover bill SB0608.

¹ [https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-of-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status#:~:text=The%20U%20nonimmigrant%20status%20\(U.or%20prosecution%20of%20criminal%20activity.](https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-of-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status#:~:text=The%20U%20nonimmigrant%20status%20(U.or%20prosecution%20of%20criminal%20activity.)