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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0828 – FAVORABLE**

**State Finance - Delinquent Federal Funds (Federal Obligations Enforcement Act)**

**TO:** Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0828, State Finance - Delinquent Federal Funds (Federal Obligations Enforcement Act)**

Governor Moore of Maryland and the legislature have been forced to deal with a ... *State of Emergency to Address Economic Impacts of Federal Government Shutdown and Distribute \$10 Million in Emergency Funding to Fight Food Insecurity*<sup>1</sup> This occurred during the 2025 federal government shutdown.

In 2025-2026, the federal government, under the Trump administration, initiated policies that threatened to withhold billions in funding from Maryland, including \$125 million for schools, millions in AmeriCorps funding, and SNAP benefits. Maryland's Attorney General launched successful legal challenges to protect these funds, and the state took measures, such as allocating \$10 million in emergency funding for food insecurity, to counteract potential losses.<sup>2</sup>

Key details regarding the withheld funds and responses include:

- Education and Services
- AmeriCorps Funding
- Emergency & Food Assistance
- State Legal Actions.
- Other Potential

Despite these challenges, lawsuits led by the Attorney General's office resulted in the release of funds and protected essential public services for Maryland residents. But Maryland continues to face a Federal Government that has become a deadbeat debtor to Maryland. The current Federal Administration's relationship to Maryland is "*A deadbeat is someone who owes money or has other financial obligations and doesn't meet them. Deadbeats don't pay their bills.*"<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/icymi-governor-moore-declares-state-of-emergency-to-address-economic-impacts-of-federal-government-shutdown-and-distribute.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Google AI Search "federal funds withheld from Maryland"

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/deadbeat>

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This bill will respond to this deadbeat situation by reserving jurisdiction with respect to certain federal land in the State under certain conditions; authorizing the Central Collection Unit of the Department of Budget and Management to collect a certain amount of delinquent federal funds; authorizing the Central Collection Unit, under a certain circumstance, to collect certain federal funds owed to the State, place liens on federal property in the State, and direct the Comptroller to withhold certain payments to the federal government; etc.

If the Federal Government fails to uphold their disbursements to Maryland, we must withhold monies due to them in order to take care of our residents.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0828.**