

HB1109\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
03/03/2026

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**TESTIMONY ON HB#1109 - POSITION: FAVORABLE  
Public Health Reform Act**

**TO:** Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health 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 of/ HB#/1109, Public Health Reform Act**

The intent of this bill is to organize the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps. The purpose of the corps is to provide a statewide volunteer network integrated into community emergency systems to facilitate a coordinated approach to volunteer management. The corps shall include clinical and nonclinical personnel capable of assisting during crises that strain the health care system or public health system, including public health emergencies, disease outbreaks, and natural disasters.

Maryland must take this action because the Federal Emergency Management Agency is no longer dependable in emergency situations in Maryland. Maryland Attorney General Brown took the Federal Government to court and *Secure[d a] Court Victory Preventing Trump Administration from Unlawfully Cutting Billions in Disaster Preparedness Funding*<sup>1</sup>

Attorney General Anthony G. Brown and a coalition of 21 states won [their lawsuit](#) against the Trump administration over its unlawful attempt to shut down the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) bipartisan Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, designed to protect communities from natural disasters before they strike.

Creation of the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps will provide resources to replace Federal Government abandonment of its responsibilities for the nation and states safety.

The bill will Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to organize the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps; altering the membership, leadership selection process, and staffing of the Commission on Public Health; requiring the Commission to provide oversight over the implementation of recommendations made by the Commission; establishing the Public Health Workforce Development Fund; requiring the Department of Legislative Services to develop a process to assess the health equity impacts of relevant legislation; etc.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1109.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oag.maryland.gov/News/Pages/Attorney-General-Brown-Secures-Court-Victory-Preventing-Trump-Administration-from-Unlawfully-Cutting-Billions-in-Disaster-Preparedness-Funding>  
P.aspx#:~:text=That%20decision%20left%20important%20infrastructure,of%20the%20Commonwealth%20of%20Pennsylvania.