

HB0750\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0750- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Criminal Law - Interference With Access to or Egress From a Religious Facility – Prohibition**

**TO:** Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0750, **Criminal Law - Interference With Access to or Egress From a Religious Facility – Prohibition**

This bill strengthens the provisions of the [Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act \(FACE\), 18 U.S.C. § 248](#), which protects access to reproductive health care clinics and places of religious worship free of force or threats of force. The current Federal Administration is failing to enforce the act when the prohibited action is taken by any of their supporters. Maryland needs to act in the face of this abandonment by the US Department of Justice of its responsibilities.

Recent reports indicate an increase in incidents where Christian nationalist-aligned individuals or groups have targeted other faith facilities, often focusing on churches that are progressive, welcoming to LGBTQ+ members, or involved in specific social issues. These actions are part of a broader, often tense, atmosphere regarding religious freedom, immigration, and political expression in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

This bill will prohibit a person, acting alone or with others, from preventing another from entering or exiting a religious facility; and establishing that a violation of the Act is a misdemeanor with a penalty of imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both on conviction.

The rise of white Christian Nationalism is being cheered on instead of resisted by the Federal Administration, this bill says that Maryland takes a moral and ethical stand against some of the conduct of the adherents to this ideology towards other faiths and minority populations.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0750**

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<sup>1</sup> Google AI Search “christian nationalist protests at other faith facilities”