

SB0621\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
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Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0621 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**County Police Accountability Boards - Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct**

**TO:** Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0621, County Police Accountability Boards - Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct**

After multiple reports of police misconduct over the last few years the Maryland General Assembly mandated every county to create a Police Accountability Board. However, the board's powers to investigate complaints and use subpoena powers in that investigation were not granted by the new law. As such, it is still police agencies investigating police. The confidence level from the public that said investigation will be thorough and results visible is not present as these boards are currently established.

This bill will increase public confidence by giving to those Police Accountability Boards much broader powers. They will now have the discretion to exercise investigatory and subpoena power concurrently with a law enforcement agency investigating the complaint. It will increase transparency in the processing of police misconduct allegations.

The idea behind the establishment of the Police Accountability Boards was to make law enforcement accountable for any misconduct by a peace officer. This bill strengthens that idea by giving those boards powers to do an effective and complete job on any investigation.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0621.**