

1/23/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0193 - FAVORABLE**

**Agriculture – Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Commercial Egg Production**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0193, Agriculture – Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Commercial Egg Production**

My Jewish faith teaches me the importance of treating animals with compassion and care. Proverbs 12:10 teaches us that “A righteous man has regard for the desire of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.” Exodus 23:5 teaches us that even an animal belonging to an enemy must be treated with compassion and kindness “If you see your enemy's donkey lying under its burden would you refrain from helping him? You shall surely help along with him.”

Further, treatment of birds is discussed in Deuteronomy 22:6-7. ““If, as you are walking along, you happen to see a bird’s nest in a tree or on the ground with chicks or eggs, and the mother bird is sitting on the chicks or the eggs, you are not to take the mother with the chicks. <sup>7</sup> You must let the mother go, but you may take the chicks for yourself; so that things will go well with you, and you will prolong your life.” From this we learn we must not confine egg producing hens in such a way that we are cruel or in which we place the life of the mother hen in jeopardy.

A journal article in the National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnology Information (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7005410/>) makes the point that “Nowadays, it is widely recognized that poultry are sentient, and ethical guidelines apply to all aspects of production, breeding, farming, transport, and humane killing. Implementing these guidelines is still an area that needs improvement.”

SB0193 is a common-sense application of regulations on how we treat egg-laying chickens and makes a moral statement that Maryland stands for ethical treatment of animals that provide for our needs. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0193.**