

SB0772_RichardKaplowitz_UNF

2/16/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0772 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE
Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity

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 against SB#/0772, Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity

This is a solution in search of a problem. Why add time and expense and complexity to voting when incidences of voter fraud, especially in any scale that might effect an election result, is infinitesimally small? Voters, when they register, provide information under penalty if falsified. Can the authors of this bill document where this is failing now in Maryland?

I am unsure of the need to add additional time and complexity to the act of voting and the actions required of our election officials. The Heritage Foundation tracks incidents of voter fraud and is a noted conservative organization. In elections between 2012-2018 in Maryland they identified only eight incidents of voter fraud out of the millions and millions of votes in those elections.

<https://www.heritage.org/voterfraud/search?state=MD>

The Maryland State Board of Elections documents all of the steps they take to insure we have safe and valid elections and that any fraud is quickly detected and dealt with appropriately.

https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/election_security.html

This bill is unnecessary and only serves to respond to political falsehoods around the conduct of elections that do not occur in any number that would effect a Maryland election.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on SB#/0772