

HB0769\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
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Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/07691 - FAVORABLE**  
**Local Public Campaign Financing - Expansion to Additional Offices**

**TO:** Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0769, Local Public Campaign Financing - Expansion to Additional Offices**

The intent of this bill is clear, it is to permit a local decision on a local campaign to apply a system of public campaign financing. It lets local government decide what system works best in their jurisdiction. The increased cost to run for election today can be a barrier to a person making the decision to declare a candidacy for an office. Public campaign financing can assist persons with limited financial resources but a call to serve their community pursue that passion.

The Brennan Center for Justice has declared “The U.S. campaign finance system unfairly favors a small handful of wealthy donors. Small donor public financing could fix that.”<sup>1</sup> Income inequality means that our lawmakers may not represent fairly and accurately the overall community. Because of the wealth they have acquired, their understanding of and comprehension of the challenges the poor and ALICE populations are facing can be less than optimal. Members of that economic strata may feel their voices are not heard or responded to effectively without representation from their cohort.

This bill will permit local campaigns to be conducted with resources otherwise serving as a barrier to a candidate lessened. It will help broaden the pool of persons willing to attempt to serve their community in a political role.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0769.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/reform-money-politics/public-campaign-financing>