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**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0602 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Employment Discrimination – Sexual Orientation**

**TO:** Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters 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 HB#/0602, Employment Discrimination – Sexual Orientation**

This bill expands the moral and ethical concept that discrimination of any type or form in Maryland is not permitted. It adds to the prohibitions on discrimination due to sex or gender identity their inclusion in the category of sexual orientation.

There is a difference between gender and sexual orientation that must be understood. <sup>1</sup> My Jewish faith notes that the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, deal with and indicate a teaching about transgender identity. <sup>2</sup> And despite the mistranslation of Leviticus often used to condemn male homosexuality the Bible's primary lesson on love and respect for each other is primary throughout. <sup>3</sup>

Discrimination of any type in Maryland harms not only the person discriminated against but all of us in not respecting each other and permitting the person to contribute themselves in an employment arena. Maryland should be an example to the nation on how diversity, equity, and inclusion are strengths, not weaknesses within our society.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0602.**



<sup>1</sup> Gender Identity and Expression Explained.zip

<sup>2</sup> <https://rac.org/blog/what-torah-teaches-us-about-gender-fluidity-and-transgender-justice>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.advocate.com/religion/2022/12/17/how-bible-error-changed-history-and-turned-gays-pariahs>