

HB1194_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

3/13/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON HB#/1194 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Hospitals – Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans – Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2024)

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB#/1194, Hospitals – Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans – Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2024)

This bill is an attempt to ensure our hospitals in Maryland are adequately staffed or have a plan actively being pursued to do so to reduce waiting times in Emergency Rooms and improve the delivery of health services to Marylanders.

It will grant to the Health Services Cost Review Committee power to conduct investigations of violations of this act and take actions to remedy discrepancies and failures it identifies in staffing in clinical settings.

This bill will strengthen the ability of the appropriate agency to deal with creation of safe staffing in our health facilities. It will provide tools to be used by hospitals in formulating plans that meet the requirements for that staffing that will pass muster when examined. If Maryland is to have the world class health system that delivers best-in-care results to Marylanders this bill is an important milestone to achieving that objective.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an favorable report on HB#/1194