

HB0288_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

1/26/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0288 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Criminal Law - Visual Surveillance With Prurient Intent - Private Place and Minor Victim

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary 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#/0288, Criminal Law - Visual Surveillance With Prurient Intent - Private Place and Minor Victim

I am proud that two of my Frederick County legislators are sponsors of this important bill. This bill is to provide protection of an individual's personal autonomy and sense of safety. The trauma that can occur when this conduct is discovered can have effects over the lifetime of the victim, especially a minor whose reputation and security would be compromised when this occurs.

Judaism teaches us that "the first of all ethical and Torah axioms must be stated at the outset: No one has a right to in any way violate in any way the body or soul of another human being." Visual surveillance without permission is a violation of the body and the soul of the person who, without their consent and for immoral purposes, is made a victim of this crime.

The protection of the life, health, and safety of children is a primary responsibility of every adult in Maryland. This bill expands the capability of the criminal justice system to meet that responsibility. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0288.**