

HB0316\_RichardKaplowitz\_UNF  
2/28/2022

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#0316 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Crimes and Corrections - Penalties and Procedures (Violent Firearms Offender Act of 2024)**

**TO:** Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB#/0316, Crimes and Corrections - Penalties and Procedures (Violent Firearms Offender Act of 2024)**

While I think the Medicaid provisions of this bill are appropriate the consideration of permitting firearms to be in the possession of formerly incarcerated individuals is, to me, problematic.

I do not think, until a formerly incarcerated person is no longer a participant in any area of the criminal justice system, that firearm possession should be permitted in their possession. The prison system does not always fully rehabilitate that individual. Almost 20% of prisoners relapse and return to criminal activity. “Consistent with national models, Maryland’s recidivism is highest in the first year following release. Measurement of first year recidivism changed due to pending resolution of cases, and is now 19.44%.”<sup>1</sup>

Protection of the public in these cases should override any push to place more weapons in our society, especially in the possession of those persons who have committed and served a sentence for criminal activity.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB0316.**

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[https://dpscs.maryland.gov/publicinfo/publications/pdfs/2022\\_p157\\_DPSCS\\_Recidivism%20Report.pdf#:~:text=FY%202019%20three-year%20recidivism%20is%20starkly%20lower%20than,pending%20resolution%20of%20cases%2C%20and%20is%20now%2019.44%25](https://dpscs.maryland.gov/publicinfo/publications/pdfs/2022_p157_DPSCS_Recidivism%20Report.pdf#:~:text=FY%202019%20three-year%20recidivism%20is%20starkly%20lower%20than,pending%20resolution%20of%20cases%2C%20and%20is%20now%2019.44%25)