

SB0560\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
02/13/2025  
Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0560 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity - Membership and Purposes**

**TO:** Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0560, Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity - Membership and Purposes**

Health and education outcomes are influenced by complex interactions between people and their environment.<sup>1</sup> Health Equity is defined as

Having personal agency and fair access to resources and opportunities needed to achieve the best possible physical, emotional and social well-being.

Health inequalities are defined as:

The preventable differences in health outcomes closely linked to social, economic and environmental conditions.

Recognizing these conditions are affecting health care in Maryland this bill will alter the membership of the Maryland Commission on Health Equity and alter the purposes of the Commission to include employing a health equity framework to examine the impact of access to transportation, transit programs, and transit services and proximity to health care facilities and primary care providers on the health of residents of the State.

This bill provides both a framework and goals to be met by the Maryland Commission on Health Equity to guide the work of that commission. It delineates factors that need to be part of the decision making within the health equity determinations. It acknowledges gaps in providing equitable health treatment of residents of Maryland.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0560.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.etr.org/default/assets/File/hef/ETR%20Health%20Equity%20Framework.pdf>