

HB0576_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0576 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs - Video Recordings

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations 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/ HB#/0576, Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs - Video Recordings

The Attorney General of Maryland has noted that “The largest population in the United States consists of people over the age of 65. Sadly, many seniors and "vulnerable adults" are targets of crimes ranging from telemarketing fraud to patient abuse in nursing home facilities. “¹

The Maryland State Plan on Aging² makes the case that our senior population is large and growing and likely needs this protection.

The number of older Marylanders is increasing. Of the nearly 6.1 million people in Maryland in 2020, 22.62% were aged 60 or over. This percentage is expected to increase to 26.57% of Maryland’s projected population of 6.7 million by the year 2040.

In acknowledging these deprivations of seniors and vulnerable adults the Attorney General has requested authorities on the treatment of and prosecution of these criminal acts utilizing video evidence to assist in the prosecution. It will mandate the use of video surveillance equipment for that purpose. It will protect the patient’s privacy by limiting the surveillance to common areas of the facilities and not patient’s personal spaces. The goal is to prevent exploitation of residents. It will require nursing homes and assisted living programs to make available, on request, certain recorded video data to law enforcement and State personnel that is necessary in the course of performing their official duties.

Facilities in the healthcare industry have been utilizing video surveillance for many years. ... Over time, use of video surveillance has also transitioned to a way for management to monitor staff (particularly in medication room settings) and help deter abuse and substandard care; and, to help staff monitor patient activity and track wandering patients. Many of those in the healthcare field also see video camera surveillance as a way to ...provide instant access to real-time and/or recent footage.³

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0576.

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¹<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/seniors.aspx#:~:text=Sadly%2C%20many%20seniors%20and%20%22vulnerable.to%20report%20fraud%20or%20abuse.>

² <https://aging.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/StatePlanonAging/MD%20State%20Plan%202022-2025.pdf>

³ <https://www.glatfelterhealthcare.com/risk-management/content/video-surveillance-in-senior-living>