

SB0122_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0122 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Criminal Law - Hate Crimes - Law Enforcement Officers**

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0122, Criminal Law - Hate Crimes - Law Enforcement Officers

Growing up our parents told us to trust the police if we were ever in trouble. Unfortunately, we are finding that is not always true in every case. The Washington Post ¹ has made clear that throughout our country, including here in Maryland, there are a few bad apples in the bunch. The Sheriff's Department in Frederick County has had to pay settlements for racial profiling cases. ² There is a documented bias in Maryland's criminal legal system, from racial profiling by police, to arresting and the conduct of the police, and in sentencing. 71% of Maryland's prison population is black people, more than twice the national average.

This bill will treat law enforcement officers the same as the general public with respect to the scope of certain prohibitions against committing certain crimes against certain persons, damaging certain property of certain persons, burning certain objects, and damaging certain buildings with which certain persons or groups have contacts or associations. It will govern law enforcement conduct in which there are elements or under circumstances that are exhibiting animosity against a certain person or group.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0122.

¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/police-america/?reload=true&_id=1736889016117

² <https://www.aclu-md.org/en/press-releases/victory-lawsuit-over-frederick-county-sheriffs-racial-profiling-latinx-people>