

SB0466_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON SB#0466 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Vulnerable and Senior Adults - Theft of Property by Caregiver, Family Member, or Household Member – Prohibition

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, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0466, Vulnerable and Senior Adults - Theft of Property by Caregiver, Family Member, or Household Member – Prohibition

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

In acknowledging these deprivations of seniors and vulnerable adults the Attorney General has requested authorities on treatment of and prosecution of these criminal acts. Criminal conduct is defined within the bill. This bill will prohibit a caregiver, family member, or household member from knowingly and willfully obtaining the property of an individual the caregiver, family member, or household member knows or reasonably should know is a vulnerable or senior adult with the intent to deprive the vulnerable or senior adult of the property.

Specific treatment under law for enforcement and punishment is provided by making a violation of the Act an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice that is subject to enforcement and penalties under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act; etc.

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

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0466.

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>