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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0236- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Peace Orders - Intentional Visual Surveillance

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0236, **Peace Orders - Intentional Visual Surveillance**

In discussions with Delegate Valentine I came to understand the logic behind the introduction of this bill and to agree for its necessity. This bill will protect the privacy of individuals in situations where the use of technology is circumventing the protection of the life, property, and privacy of someone who is being harassed by another. It will authorize a certain person to petition for a peace order against another person whom the petitioner alleges has conducted intentional visual surveillance of areas of the petitioner's residence where the petitioner has a reasonable expectation of privacy and expanding the relief that may be included in a final peace order.

That unwanted surveillance, regardless of what methods are used to deliberately conduct it, should be treated as a violation not only of privacy but as a possible threat to the life, safety, or property of the petitioner. It is incumbent on us to pass this bill to stop that conduct and create a safer and more protected environment for residents of Maryland affected by persons placing them in an unsafe situation.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0236.