

HB0130_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

01/28/2025

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0130 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Intercepted Communications – Penalty

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary 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#/0130, **Intercepted Communications – Penalty**

This bill rectifies a mistake made when establishing criminal penalties over communications that have been intercepted and then disclosed to others. The technology available when the law was drafted had created fear that everyone was listening to everyone else, so it was classified as a felony with severe penalties. This is not a crime of violence; the penalty doesn't fit the crime.

This is a bill submitted to effect reclassifying, as a misdemeanor instead of a felony, a certain offense relating to the prohibition against intercepting and disclosing any wire, oral, or electronic communications.

Technology exists now to block the problem and to identify those who might be performing this illegal action. It doesn't decriminalize the offense, it simply changes the penalty for commission from a severe and life altering offense to a less severe punishment.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0130.