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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0115 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

Election Law - Polling Places - Establishing Voter Identity (Voter Privacy Act of 2025)

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means 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 opposing HB#/0115, Election Law - Polling Places - Establishing Voter Identity (Voter Privacy Act of 2025)

This bill seems to be supporting the falsehood surrounding whether there is fraud being committed in voting in Maryland. It makes additional work for election workers when helping a voter to vote. The prohibition of voting under false pretenses is already a crime in Maryland and that has not been shown to be insufficient in prevention of the voter assuming a false identity to vote. It might prevent voting by any unhoused individuals who do not have the required identification but do have a mailing address within a social services component. The bill also calls for a picture identification “issued by a political subdivision of the State, the State, the federal government, or any unit of a political subdivision of the State, the State, or the federal government”. How does the student who has no driver’s license but does have a student identification card not be able to vote because it isn’t a political body issue? What about a homeless person who is eligible to vote but doesn’t have any identification? Why does this bill presume that voters are lying about who they are to commit voter fraud when only ten cases of fraud were documented in Maryland by the Heritage Foundation in the years 2012-2023? And how does this prevent conscious or unconscious bias of an election judge from erecting possible barriers to a person’s right to vote?

The Maryland State Board of Elections documents all of the steps they take to insure we have safe and valid elections, and this bill would contravene some of the secure measures that are primary methodology in voter protections.¹

This bill is unnecessary and only serves to respond to political falsehoods around the conduct of elections that do not occur in any number that would affect a Maryland election.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB#/0115.

¹ https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/election_security.html