

HB0895\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

03/03/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0895- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Food Retailers - Dynamic Pricing, Surveillance Data, and Collective Bargaining Agreements (Protection From Predatory Pricing Act)**

**TO:** Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and members of the Economic Matters 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#0895, **Food Retailers - Dynamic Pricing, Surveillance Data, and Collective Bargaining Agreements (Protection From Predatory Pricing Act)**

This bill is a consumer and worker protection bill. As studied by Food & Water Watch *How AI Enables Higher Food Prices and Corporate Profits:*<sup>1</sup>

With the power of digital technology, data collection, and AI, corporations can pursue new pricing strategies to squeeze even more profits from us. The [data centers powering the AI boom](#) aren't just raising our electricity bills, polluting our air, worsening climate change, and guzzling our water. They're also helping corporations drive prices as high as they can get away with.

The Economic Roundtable issued a report *Bullies At The Table*<sup>2</sup>

More than nine out of ten grocery store workers in the three states report price gouging at their stores and that their company is raising prices higher than production costs. ... The grocery labor force lives with extreme financial insecurity. More than four-fifths of workers are unable to pay basic living costs. The consequence of the poverty wages received by many grocery workers is that more than two-thirds do not have secure housing. This includes being rent burdened and living in overcrowded housing.

This bill thus will prohibit a food retailer from engaging in the practice of dynamic pricing or using consumer surveillance data to set a price for consumer goods or services; prohibiting a food retailer from using protected class data to offer, advertise, or sell a consumer good or service under certain circumstances; prohibiting a food retailer from diminishing or impairing any right or benefit guaranteed to employees of the food retailer under an existing collective bargaining agreement or memorandum of understanding; etc.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0895.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2026/01/29/ai-food-prices-corporate-profits/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://economicrt.org/publication/bullies-at-the-table/?fbclid=IwY2xjawP4jhZleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFSNEJaSDUyaktJemZKQmpSc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHn-ILpU8cNwR43SpUinPfc2EMSv8c\\_58VW--SJ-UH017Xpvn1DJD753gLWq\\_aem\\_VvOqfQaHBc4FisZQc7EKFA](https://economicrt.org/publication/bullies-at-the-table/?fbclid=IwY2xjawP4jhZleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFSNEJaSDUyaktJemZKQmpSc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHn-ILpU8cNwR43SpUinPfc2EMSv8c_58VW--SJ-UH017Xpvn1DJD753gLWq_aem_VvOqfQaHBc4FisZQc7EKFA)