

HB0883_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0883 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Consumer Protection - Artificial Intelligence - Behavioral Health Care Prohibitions

TO: Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health 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#/0883, Consumer Protection - Artificial Intelligence - Behavioral Health Care Prohibitions

The Stanford University Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence has documented *Exploring the Dangers of AI in Mental Health Care*¹

A new Stanford study reveals that AI therapy chatbots may not only lack effectiveness compared to human therapists but could also contribute to harmful stigma and dangerous responses.

Maryland needs to ensure that AI is not causing harm to anyone in the state seeking behavioral health care. AI cannot and should not replace the human element in this care.

The bill will ensure this is the paradigm in Maryland by prohibiting a developer of artificial intelligence from making, or knowingly causing artificial intelligence to make, certain representations or statements relating to behavioral health care subject to a civil penalty not exceeding \$1,000,000; requiring a developer artificial intelligence sold, leased, given, or otherwise provided to consumers in the State to include a certain notice or protocols; authorizing the Attorney General to bring an action for an alleged violation of the Act; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0883.

¹ <https://hai.stanford.edu/news/exploring-the-dangers-of-ai-in-mental-health-care>