

SB0962_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0962 – FAVORABLE

January 6th Insurrectionists - Prohibition on Service in Certain Government Roles

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0962, January 6th Insurrectionists - Prohibition on Service in Certain Government Roles

The House Committee on the Judiciary ranking member Democrat Jamie Raskin has noted *Trump's Jan. 6 pardons look even more awful a year later - Although Trump campaigned on pardoning Jan. 6 offenders, even those close to him did not anticipate that Trump would go as far as he did.*¹

The first major act of President Donald Trump's second term was granting [an Inauguration Day pardon](#) to all the rioters and insurrectionists who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. As dreadful as it was a year ago that Trump excused and blessed mass street violence against the constitutional order, the decision [looks even worse today](#), as unleashing authoritarian government violence against the people becomes the defining agenda of the Trump administration. While many Jan. 6 offenders have gone on to commit [new violent crimes](#), making a mockery of the concept of clemency, the key planners of Trump's Jan. 6 coup and its apologists have become [critical actors in the administration](#). The consequences of this criminal permissiveness are — no surprise — more crime. [A report by our House Judiciary Committee Democratic staff](#) found that at least 33 pardoned rioters have faced new criminal charges since Jan. 6, 2021, and several have reoffended since receiving their pardons a year ago.

This bill will prohibit individuals convicted of certain crimes in relation to the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, from serving on a board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup created by state law, in the executive service of state government, or in a special appointment in state government; and require an appointing authority to take certain actions to remove or terminate the employment of an individual serving in a role in violation of the Act. While Trump may have pardoned them to reward their lawlessness on his behalf the state of Maryland should and must not let these convicted criminals be rewarded by serving in any position of public trust in the state. Their actions should disqualify them.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0962.

¹ <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/new-in-ms-now-ranking-member-raskin-trump-s-jan-6-pardons-look-even-more-awful-a-year-later#:~:text=The%20first%20major%20act%20of,6%2C%202021.>