

HB1300_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
03/26/2026
Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#1300 - FAVORABLE
Maryland Commission for Women – Alterations

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, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1300, **Maryland Commission for Women – Alterations**

Under the provisions of this bill the executive director of the Commission is not considered a special appointee. The duties of the Commission will be defined as:

- strengthen the conditions for women in and out of the home by directing attention to critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers, homemakers, and workers
- recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against women in public and private employment
- encourage women to become candidates for public office
- promote more effective methods for enabling women to develop skills, continue education, and be retrained
- conduct studies and assist with programs, seminars, and conferences to raise public awareness about issues impacting women
- support policies and programs that promote the well-being of women
- provide publicity for a wide range of issues affecting women, including personal growth and development, life transitions, and career-related issues
- promote and assist local volunteer programs focused on improving conditions for women
- advocate for legislation supporting wage equality, economic and cultural development, fostering social inclusion and human relations, and other policies that promote the equality and flourishing of all people
- encourage and empower women to compete for leadership roles and provide networking opportunities for women throughout their careers
- offer programs on career development, financial wellness, and violence prevention
- act as a clearinghouse for activities to avoid duplication of effort
- make surveys and appoint advisory committees in ALL fields affecting the lives of women in the state, including education, social services, labor laws and employment policies, law enforcement, health and safety, new and expanded services, legal rights, family relations, human relations, and volunteer services

Through the Secretary, the Commission shall submit an annual report including recommendations based on the Commission's studies to the Governor and to the General Assembly. The bill will do all this by repealing the authority of the Secretary of Human Services to appoint the Executive Director of the Maryland Commission for Women; providing that the Executive Director of the Commission is not a special appointee; and altering the duties of the Commission.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1300.