

SB0670_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#0670- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Election Law - Local Board of Elections Employees - Authority at Polling Places

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment 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 SB#0670, **Election Law - Local Board of Elections Employees - Authority at Polling Places**

Based on new pronouncements by the Federal Administration figures, *American Oversight Investigating Potential Trump Administration Plans to Deploy Military, ICE at Polling Places*¹

“The presence of law enforcement or military personnel at polling places risks chilling voter participation and undermining public confidence in the integrity of our elections — perhaps that is what President Trump is counting on,” said Chioma Chukwu, Executive Director of American Oversight. “The possibility that this kind of government power might be used to threaten voters exercising their constitutional rights demands scrutiny. Rather than stoke fears of political intimidation, the administration should strengthen trust in our democracy and address the real crises affecting people’s lives.”

This bill will give Maryland tools to combat these unconstitutional actions should their be any attempts by anyone to try and influence elections by intimidation and interference with voters.

This bill will require a police officer who is on duty at a polling place to obey the authority of a local board of elections employee; providing that local board employees, while serving a polling place, have the authority to keep the peace and order the arrest of certain persons; and authorizing local board employees, while serving in a polling place, to protect certain rights of, deny admission of, and eject certain challengers and watchers from a polling place under certain circumstances; etc.

This bill will give our polling place volunteers tools to combat these tactics and have those who would use them arrested for their interference with our elections.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0670.

¹ <https://americanoversight.org/american-oversight-investigating-potential-trump-administration-plans-to-deploy-military-ice-at-polling-places/>