

SB0494_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/24/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0494- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment – Procedures

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance 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#/0494, **Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council – Establishment**

This bill will add new protection to the public and to Maryland when health provider organizations attempt to consolidate and create merged companies. It will require that the state is notified of the attempt and requires public notice. A new process of reviewing the action will be established and subject the transaction to a public interest review to see if it benefits consumers or just companies at the expense of the public.

This vital bill can correct how health care is governed in Maryland by repealing the exemption from the certificate of need requirement for certain mergers; requiring certain health care entities to provide certain notice of a material change transaction to the Maryland Health Care Commission and the public; establishing a public interest review process for material change transactions, including criteria for determining whether a material change transaction is subject to a public interest review; etc.

Greed by providers will no longer be the factor leading to these mergers if they harm the consumer and the state.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0494.