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**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0060- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Fraud Prevention, Prevailing Wage, and Living Wage - Prohibitions, Penalties, and Enforcement**

**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#/0060, **Fraud Prevention, Prevailing Wage, and Living Wage - Prohibitions, Penalties, and Enforcement**

On February 21, 2025, Maryland's Joint Enforcement Task Force on Workplace Fraud (JETF) released a new annual report, revealing the magnitude of worker misclassification in Maryland. Misclassified workers lose out on critical workplace protections, including access to unemployment benefits, compensation, health insurance coverage, minimum wage, and overtime pay, and workplace fraud also causes significant harm to employers and the state.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit a person from knowingly making or using, or causing to be made or used, a false record or statement resulting in underpayments of unemployment insurance contributions or payment of unemployment insurance benefits of more than \$15,000 in a calendar year; altering the enforcement mechanisms related to workplace fraud laws, living wage laws, and prevailing wage laws, including authorizing the Attorney General to investigate and bring suit in a certain manner; etc.

The clarification of how conduct in this area is to be sanctioned and the provision of powers granted the Attorney General to investigate and sue over misconduct in this area add important employee and employer protections to Maryland.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0060.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.marylandcomptroller.gov/content/dam/mdcomp/md/media/2025/02-21-2025-Report-Workplace-Fraud-in-Maryland.pdf>