

SB0217\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/05/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0217- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund – Alterations**

**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#/0217, **Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund – Alterations**

This bill gives an opinion that Maryland should remedy harms caused to communities affected during the criminalization of cannabis. It will declare that “the General Assembly therefore finds that the public interest is served by:

- (1) acknowledging and repairing the causes and consequences of disparities in arrests and imprisonment in prosecutions of cannabis-related offenses among specific populations and geographic regions;
- (2) developing, among existing members of communities that have been disproportionately and negatively impacted, the capacity to ascertain and address the social and economic determinants that are fundamental to reducing the impact of longstanding inequities and improving economic, educational, and health outcomes; and
- (3) being consistent with social equity principles and governance by allocating a significant portion of tax revenue from the adult-use cannabis market to the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund for distribution to local jurisdictions to be administered by the local jurisdictions.”

The bill meets these declarations by altering the purpose of the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund; requiring the Comptroller to administer the Fund at the direction of the Office of Social Equity; altering requirements for a certain county plan for the distribution of funds from the Fund; requiring a county to consult with the Office to make any adjustments to the county plan; altering the requirements for a certain report on the Fund; requiring the Comptroller, in consultation with the Office, to ensure compliance with provisions of law governing the Fund; etc.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0217.**