

HB0568_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/11/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0568- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Financing Act - State Senate and House of Delegates Candidates

TO: Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor and Elections 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 HB#/0568, **Public Financing Act - State Senate and House of Delegates Candidates**

As reported by the Campaign Legal Organization, whose motto is Advancing Democracy Through Law: ¹

Big donors and special interests have come to dominate the financing of American elections.

Candidates rely on donations from a handful of wealthy donors, while super PACs increasingly exert an outsized influence on our elections. As a result, elected officials are more responsive to large donors than to their constituents.

Public financing is a promising way to amplify the voices of all citizens in a democracy of, by, and for the people.

A well-designed program can create an incentive for candidates to fundraise and connect with the people they seek to represent. And this translates to a donor base that looks more like the fabric of the community, rather than a handful of wealthy elites, because we deserve a real democracy.

This bill reacts to these problems by adding candidates for State Senator and member of the House of Delegates to the candidates authorized to receive public contributions from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund; establishing qualifications that a candidate for State Senator or member of the House of Delegates must meet to qualify as an eligible candidate to receive public contributions from the Fund; etc.

We have the opportunity to stop wealthy donors from owning politicians by contributions.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0568.

¹ <https://campaignlegal.org/democracyu/inclusion/public-financing-elections>