

HB0689\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/11/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0689- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Candidates for Representative in Congress - Certificate of Candidacy Filing Deadline for the 2026 Election – Alteration**

**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#/0689, **Candidates for Representative in Congress - Certificate of Candidacy Filing Deadline for the 2026 Election - Alteration**

This emergency bill will extend the filing deadlines for candidates for office in Maryland. The brutal winter weather has interfered with candidates ability to organize a campaign and fundraise for it in numbers that make it possible to run a campaign.

This bill will alter the deadline for a candidate for Representative in Congress to file a certificate of candidacy for the statewide election held in 2026 from the last Tuesday in February to 9 p.m. on March 20, 2026.

This extension of the deadline may permit more people to decide and declare an intention to run for office making voting for an office more competitive and fairer for both candidates and voters.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0689.**