

HB0049_RichardKaplowitz_UNF

03/19/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0049- POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

Public Health - Abortion (Heartbeat Bill)

TO: Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health 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 opposition to HB#0049, **Public Health - Abortion (Heartbeat Bill)**

This bill is very likely unconstitutional. Maryland voters approved the [Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment \(Question 1\)](#) on November 5, 2024, overwhelmingly enshrining abortion rights into the state constitution with over 74% support. Officially certified in January 2025, this amendment establishes a fundamental right to make decisions regarding contraception and abortion, protecting access against future legislative changes.¹

It seems to be an attempt to establish fetal personhood by including in its definitions:

“pregnancy” means the human female reproductive condition that:

- begins with fertilization
- occurs when the woman is carrying the developing baby
- and is calculated from the first day of the woman’s last menstrual period.

While I doubt this bill will be heard much less voted on in committee if it did come up in committee I strongly oppose it as an attempt to say that my definition should govern everyone’s conduct regardless of what their faith or belief on this issue matters to them.

This bill will violate Maryland’s Constitution by requiring that an abortion be performed by a physician, rather than a qualified provider; repealing certain provisions of law related to State interference with an abortion, regulations related to abortion, and liability or criminal punishment for qualified providers who perform an abortion; prohibiting a physician from knowingly performing, inducing, or attempting to perform or induce an abortion under certain circumstances and subject to certain exceptions; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB#0049.

¹ Google AI Search “maryland constitutional amendment on abortion”