

HB0615\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0615 POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Health Facilities - Confidentiality of Medical Records - Crisis Pregnancy Clinics**

**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 support of HB#/0615, **Health Facilities - Confidentiality of Medical Records - Crisis Pregnancy Clinics**

Planned Parenthood makes clear *What are Crisis Pregnancy Centers?*<sup>1</sup>

Crisis pregnancy centers (also called CPCs or "fake clinics") are clinics or mobile vans that look like real health centers, but they're run by anti-abortion activists who have a shady, harmful agenda: to scare, shame, or pressure you out of getting an abortion, and to tell lies about abortion, birth control, and sexual health.

Crisis pregnancy centers don't provide abortion or offer a full range of health care, and they won't give you honest facts about sexual health and your pregnancy options — their goal is to spread misinformation and propaganda.

Most crisis pregnancy centers aren't legitimate medical clinics, so they don't have to follow HIPAA and keep your information private, like most real health care providers do. These crisis pregnancy centers could even give your information to other anti-abortion organizations or use it to harass you.

This bill will make these clinics required to follow HIPAA and prevent misuse of your personal identification information. This goal is met by passing this bill to apply certain provisions of law governing the confidentiality of medical records to crisis pregnancy clinics and generally relating to confidentiality of medical records.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0615.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/blog/what-are-crisis-pregnancy-centers>