

HJ0008_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
03/16/2026
Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HJ#/0008 – FAVORABLE

Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings

TO: Chair Healey, Vice Chair Holmes, and members of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HJ#0008, Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, has opened a new permanent installation, *Lynching in Maryland*. The Lynching in Maryland installation seeks to honor the victims of the 38 documented racial terror lynchings that occurred in the state between 1854 and 1933. The installation serves as a solemn reminder of the atrocities committed, while also educating the public about the lasting impact of racial terror on African Americans and their communities.¹

This resolution will acknowledge this sad history of racial violence in Maryland and strive to issue an apology and acknowledge the State's complicity and negligence in allowing the perpetration of acts of racial terror lynching; and commit to taking reparative actions as recommended by the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As Civil Rights icon Ida B. Wells declared “**The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.**”

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HJ0008.

¹ <https://www.lewismuseum.org/lynching-in-maryland/#:~:text=Wells,African%20Americans%20and%20their%20communities.>