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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0481- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Family Law - Denial or Interference With Visitation Rights

TO: Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings 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 SB#/0481, Family Law - Denial or Interference With Visitation Rights

This bill is personal for me as it affects a good friend who identifies as a member of the LGBTQ community. She is constantly battling her ex-husband who uses their minor son as a weapon against her through denial of his visitation rights. He will punish the child by keeping him from spending time with his mother and punish her by changing, without court sanction, terms of her visitation with that child.

This intolerable situation can be corrected by passing this bill which will require, rather than authorizing, a court to order visitation to be rescheduled, in a manner consistent with the best interests of the child, when the court finds that a party to a custody or visitation order has unjustifiably denied or interfered with visitation granted by the custody or visitation order.

Maryland should protect non-custodial parents being denied rights by former partners for reasons of revenge against the ex-partner or homophobic perceptions of the denied parent.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0481.