

SB0407_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
02/11/2026
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Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON SB#0407 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Criminal Law - Sexual Offense by a Person in a Position of Authority

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0407, **Criminal Law - Sexual Offense by a Person in a Position of Authority**

As reported by an AI search: ¹

Documented examples of sexual offenses committed by individuals in positions of authority in Maryland range from teachers and coaches to religious leaders, with significant cases emerging in recent years following changes to state, school, and athletic organization reporting requirements.

Key documented instances include:

Educators and School Staff

Gilman School (2024), Anne Arundel County Public Schools (2022–2024), Montgomery County Public Schools (2024), Charles County Public Schools, School Support Staff:

Coaches and Athletic Personnel

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) (2015-2020), Montgomery County Youth Football (2020), Baltimore County Softball (2025-2026), Laurel Swimming Coach (1980s-2014)

Other Positions of Authority

Religious Institutions, Housing/Landlords, Custodial Authority

Recognizing the depth and breath of the problem, this bill will alter the penalties for the misdemeanor of sexual offense by a person in a position of authority; prohibiting a certain person in a position of authority from committing a certain violation involving a child at least 6 years younger than the person in a position of authority; prohibiting a person who has been previously convicted of a certain crime from committing a certain violation; adding sexual offense by a person in a position of authority as a predicate crime for sexual solicitation of a minor; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0407.

¹ Google Search “Documented Examples of a Sexual Offense by a Person in a Position of Authority”