

HB0749\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0749- POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Criminal Procedure - Theft - Notification of Victims and Victims' Representatives**

**TO:** Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary 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#/0749, **Criminal Procedure - Theft - Notification of Victims and Victims' Representatives**

In Maryland, victims of theft have the legal right to submit **Victim Impact Statements (VIS)** to the court before a defendant is sentenced, detailing the emotional, physical, and financial impact of the crime. These statements are crucial for influencing sentencing, requesting restitution for stolen property or damages, and highlighting how the theft has affected the victim's life. <sup>1</sup>

The Governors Office of Crime Prevention and Policy of Maryland has resources for victims who wish to issue that statement. <sup>2</sup> But that right is abrogated when a prosecuting attorney fails to keep the victim in the loop on court proceedings of a theft under the value of \$1,500.

This bill will require the prosecuting attorney of thefts of property or services with a value less than \$1,500 to notify the victim or the victim's representative about each court proceeding, the right of the victim to submit a victim impact statement, any posttrial court proceedings, any appeal, and any sentence review related to the case.

The exercise of a right requires you know what your rights are, this bill upholds that notification should and must occur.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return an favorable report on HB#/0749.**

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<sup>1</sup> Google AI Search "victim impact statements on thefts in maryland"

<sup>2</sup> <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/Resources-for-Victim-Impact-Statements.pdf>