

HB0184\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#0184 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Criminal Law - Identity Fraud - Artificial Intelligence and Deepfake Representations**

**TO:** Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary 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/ HB#/0184, Criminal Law - Identity Fraud - Artificial Intelligence and Deepfake Representations**

This bill recognizes that misuse of technology is a rapidly escalating problem and proposes solutions when that technology is used to commit identity fraud. It will accomplish those aims by prohibiting a person from utilizing certain personal identifying information or engaging in certain conduct in order to cause physical injury, serious emotional distress, or economic damages; prohibiting a person from using certain artificial intelligence or certain deepfake representations for certain purposes; providing penalties of 5 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000 or both where one victim is involved, and for two or more victims the term of imprisonment is up to 10 years and the fine is up to \$15,000 or both; etc.

The World Economic Forum reported on December 11, 2025, in an article *How identity fraud is changing in the age of AI*

A new analysis of global verification data suggests that identity fraud is undergoing a structural transformation. [Sumsu's Identity Fraud Report 2025–2026](#) offers a detailed view into how identity crime has evolved over the past two years.

Rather than a simple increase or decrease in fraud, patterns point to a redistribution of risk; shifts in technique, sophistication and intent are being driven in large part by the growing accessibility of AI tools. <sup>1</sup>

This bill provides legal penalties for this misconduct to assist in deterrence of that conduct. The Department of Homeland Security reports on the *Increasing Threat of Deepfake Identities* <sup>2</sup>

Deepfakes, an emergent type of threat falling under the greater and more pervasive umbrella of synthetic media, utilizes a form of artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML) to create believable, realistic videos, pictures, audio, and text of events which never happened.

Recognizing this increasing societal problem, this bill is part of the solution to deal with it.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0184.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/12/how-identity-fraud-is-increasing-in-the-age-of-ai/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/increasing\\_threats\\_of\\_deepfake\\_identities\\_0.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/increasing_threats_of_deepfake_identities_0.pdf)