

HB0282_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0282 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Adult Protective Services – Modifications

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#/0282, **Adult Protective Services - Modifications**

Maryland law has specific statues and laws regarding Abuse and Neglect of Elderly and Vulnerable Adults. ¹ This bill strengthens those laws by altering provisions relating to the reporting and investigation of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults; and requiring a local department of aging to complete an investigation and make an indicated, not indicated, or undetermined finding within 60 days.

It will accomplish this by adding to current defined physical injury, PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM, OR SEXUAL ABUSE as types of abuse. It will further support stopping the abuse by redefining the abuser from "any person" as AN INDIVIDUAL IN A RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST WITH THE VULNERABLE ADULT.

Maryland created a TASK FORCE ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING ELDER ABUSE ² who issued a final report on 12/31/2024. This bill will assist in implementing some of the conclusions found in that task force report and make protection stronger in preventing elder abuse in Maryland

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0282.

¹ <https://www.peoples-law.org/abuse-and-neglect-elderly-persons>

²² [https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MDoA/HB797Ch706HB1191Ch707\(2023\)_2024\(12\).pdf](https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MDoA/HB797Ch706HB1191Ch707(2023)_2024(12).pdf)