

HB0793_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0793- POSITION: FAVORABLE

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#/0793, **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 judge sentence an offender. These statements allow victims to explain how the theft affected them, their families, and their community, providing a way to be heard during the sentencing process. ¹

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy discuss Victim Impact Statements. ²

This bill makes it a responsibility of prosecuting attorneys for notification of affected parties in thefts with a value of \$1,500 or less so that the victim's rights on impact statements are upheld.

The bill will require the prosecuting attorney of thefts of property or services with a value of 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.

Justice for victims of crime require notice to that victim to protect their rights in these cases.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0793.

¹ Google AI Search "victim impact statements on thefts in Maryland"

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