

HB0794\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/24/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0794- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Public Safety - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Prohibition Against Certain Affiliation or Support by Police Officers**

**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#/0794, **Public Safety - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Prohibition Against Certain Affiliation or Support by Police Officers**

In an increasingly diverse population in Maryland public safety demands a higher level of trust between the population and police forces and officers. Recognizing the effects of discrimination against BIPOC (black people, indigenous people, and people of color) this bill defines “white supremacist groups, causes, or ideologies” as groups, causes, or ideologies that:

- promote white supremacy and the idea that white people are superior to BIPOC
- promote religious and racial bigotry
- seek to exacerbate racial and ethnic tensions between BIPOC and non-BIPOC
- engage in patently hateful and inflammatory speech, intimidation, and violence against BIPOC as a means of promoting white supremacy.

The bill will charge the commission to prohibit police officers from:

- affiliating with, supporting, or advocating for white supremacist groups, causes, or ideologies
- participating in or actively promoting an international or domestic extremist group that the federal bureau of investigation has determined supports or encourages illegal violent conduct.

This bill does NOT affect First Amendment rights; it simply says that certain conduct anti-ethical to good policing should prevent an individual from being granted police powers.

The bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to prohibit police officers from affiliating with, supporting, or advocating for White supremacist groups, ideologies, or causes or participating in or actively promoting a certain extremist group.

This bill implements the recommendations of the Center for Policing Equity White Paper - *WHITE SUPREMACY IN POLICING: How Law Enforcement Agencies Can Respond*<sup>1</sup>

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0794.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://policingequity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CPE-WhitePaper-WhiteSupremacy.pdf>