

HB0787_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0787- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Criminal Law - Mail and Package Theft (Porch Piracy Act)

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#/0787, **Criminal Law - Mail and Package Theft (Porch Piracy Act)**

This act addresses a growing problem in Maryland. In 2025, Maryland is actively addressing a 67% surge in porch piracy, particularly in the Baltimore area, which ranked fifth-worst nationally for package theft. ¹

It mandates that persons convicted of this crime for three or more occurrences will face evaluation and treatment of a substance disorder to determine if the crime is implemented to provide the criminal funds for a drug habit.

Mail theft in Maryland is a significant issue, with recent reports indicating an "unprecedented" wave of incidents, often to fund various criminal activities, including drug use... Connection to Drug Addiction: A specific case highlighted by the USPS Office of Inspector General (OIG) involved a postal worker in another state who stole mail to support a fentanyl addiction, demonstrating a direct link between the crimes. ²

The bill will accomplish these purposes by prohibiting the theft of mail or packages from intended recipients; and authorizing the court to order a person convicted under the Act for a third or subsequent offense to participate in substance use disorder evaluation and treatment.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0787.

¹ Google AI Search "porch piracy violations in maryland 2025"

² Google AI Search "mail theft to fund a drug addiction in maryland"