

HB0495_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/25/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0495- POSITION: FAVORABLE
Criminal Procedure - Immigration Arrest - Immunity in Connection With Court Proceeding

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#/0495, **Criminal Procedure - Immigration Arrest - Immunity in Connection With Court Proceeding**

The Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice continue to violate the law and hurt criminal justice by their criminal conduct. The National Immigrant Justice Center has documented the problem.¹

Washington, D.C. — Immigrants and their legal advocates are suing to stop unlawful Trump administration policies that have resulted in the arrest, detention, and fast-track deportation of potentially thousands of people who appeared for their scheduled hearings at immigration courts across the country in recent months.

The class action lawsuit seeks to end ongoing collusion between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) that has intentionally stripped people of basic due process rights afforded under U.S. immigration law and the Fifth Amendment in order to place them in expedited removal proceedings and deport them without hearings.

All of the plaintiffs appeared at their hearings intending to request protection or other legal status in the United States, only to have a government attorney unexpectedly ask the immigration judge to dismiss their cases. When a judge agreed to the dismissal, often over plaintiffs' objections, the plaintiffs were arrested and detained by DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers who were waiting at the courthouse.

This bill creates in Maryland a law that provides that a certain individual duly and in good faith attending a certain court proceeding is immune from a certain immigration arrest in connection with attendance at a court proceeding under certain circumstances; and prohibiting a person from making an arrest in violation of the Act.

People are scared and failing to come to court due to ICE, we must stop this in Maryland.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0495.

¹ <https://immigrantjustice.org/press-release/unlawful-ice-arrests-at-immigration-courthouses-prompt-lawsuit-by-advocates-and-immigrants/>