

HB1319_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
03/05/2026
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TESTIMONY ON HB#1319 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Militia - Active Duty Combat (Defend the Guard)

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#1319 - **Public Safety - Militia - Active Duty Combat (Defend the Guard)**

The Constitution Annotated discusses Article I, Section 8, Clause 11:¹
[The Congress shall have Power . . .] To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water; . . .

The war on Iran is the Executive branch assuming powers not granted by the Constitution and putting American lives and treasure at risk without a compelling reason for this war.

Maryland must protect those who serve in our National Guard from the whims of an out-of-control Commander-in-Chief who might call upon them to enter the illegal conflict.

This bill would prohibit the Governor from ordering the militia or a member of the militia into active duty combat unless the U.S. Congress has passed an official declaration of war or taken a certain official action; and establishing that this prohibition does not limit or prohibit the Governor from deploying the militia or a member of the militia under certain circumstances.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1319.

¹ https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/artI-S8-C11-1/ALDE_00013587/#:~:text=The%20Constitution's%20Article%20I%2C%20Section%208%2C%20Clause,armed%20forces%20*%20Call%20forth%20the%20Militia