

HB0513\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0513- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Hate Crimes and Hate Bias - Definitions of Sexual Orientation and Hate Bias Incident**

**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#/0513, **Hate Crimes and Hate Bias - Definitions of Sexual Orientation and Hate Bias Incident**

As reported by the FBI *New FBI Data: Anti-LGBTQ+ Hate Crimes Continue to Spike, Even as Overall Crime Rate Declines*<sup>1</sup>

Even as violence in the nation overall is continuing to drop, reports of hate crime incidents targeting people for their sexual orientation or gender identity are rising...For the second year in a row, more than 1 in 5 of any type of hate crime is now motivated by anti-LGBTQ+ bias. [There continues to be] fatal violence against transgender people, which disproportionately impacts Black transgender women,

Maryland can increase protections against these crimes by passing this bill that will alter the definition of "sexual orientation" applicable to certain hate crime statutes; and defining "hate bias incident" applicable to a certain requirement that the Department of State Police collect, analyze, and report certain information provided by certain law enforcement agencies.

The data collected can assist law enforcement and the General Assembly in developing strategies and statutes that will mitigate these problems.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return an favorable report on HB#/0513.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hrc.org/press-releases/new-fbi-data-anti-lgbtq-hate-crimes-continue-to-spike-even-as-overall-crime-rate-declines>