

SB0743_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON SB#0743 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Family Law - Protective Orders - Crimes of Violence and Stalking

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0743, Family Law - Protective Orders - Crimes of Violence and Stalking

This bill is an attempt to add stalking as a reason for a protective order either on a temporary or permanent basis. The Maryland Courts report for December, 2023 shows that protective orders are being issued for multiple causes.

[Grounds by Case Type Summary Dec 2023](#) ¹

These statistics make clear that protective orders are necessary to protect the life and health of a possible victim. Stalking can include digital stalking, a new crime that has only become more common as social media increases possibilities to commit a stalking offense.

This bill recognizes this problem and works to implement a solution.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0743.

¹ https://www.mdcourts.gov/data/dv/DVCR_Statewide_2023_12.pdf