



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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SB 0346 Civil Actions – Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)
Judiciary Proceedings Committee, February 10, 2026
SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. Founded in 1956, WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is known for its advocacy for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

WDC urges swift passage of **SB 0346 Civil Actions - Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)**. We support its establishment of civil liability for an individual who, under color of law, deprives another of a right, a privilege, or an immunity secured by the U.S. Constitution.

Accountability is essential in a society based on the rule of law. Currently, when a federal government actor violates the constitutional rights of an individual, it can be difficult for the injured person to obtain recourse because there is no cause of action allowing victims to bring civil suit. In contrast, if a state or local officer violates someone's constitutional rights, the victim can sue for damages.

The No Kings Act would close this legal loophole by enforcing existing constitutional guarantees on federal officials. It would incentivize federal officials to respect an individual's constitutional rights. It would strengthen the ability of Marylanders to hold government actors accountable.

As federal immigration operations have escalated across the country, so, too, have reports of Constitutional violations. In January, we as a country witnessed a masked ICE officer and masked Border Patrol agents kill two U.S. citizens who were trying to protect their neighbors. Masked federal law enforcement have also [tear gassed](#) peaceful protestors, detained individuals – including U.S. citizens – in [horrific conditions](#), arrested [children](#), assaulted the [elderly](#), and threatened bystanders exercising basic First Amendment rights. Reports indicate that ICE believes it should be [unconstrained by the Fourth Amendment](#).

The escalation in Maryland has been devastating. [ICE arrests in Maryland nearly tripled in 2025](#), with [more than 3300 people detained](#). Residents have reported that they've been targeted by immigration enforcement because of their [race, national origin, and their political beliefs](#). Education officials attribute the sharp decrease in 2025 graduation rates to [anxiety over immigration enforcement](#) among Hispanic and multilingual learners.

Accountability is the best deterrent in the protection of our Constitutional rights, and it should not depend on the badge an officer wears.

WDC applauds the sponsors of SB 0346. We ask for your support for SB 0346 and strongly urge swift passage.

Cynthia Rubenstein
WDC President

Shelby Settles Harper
WDC Immigration Subcommittee

Kate Stein
WDC Advocacy Chair