



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Shared voices for liberal religious values in Maryland

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 892 - Public Information Act – Motor Vehicle Administration – Warrant for Personal Information and Reporting.

To: Delegate Kumar P. Barve and the Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Jim Caldiero, Co-Chair, Immigration Task Force, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of MD

Date: February 27, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 892, Public Information Act – Motor Vehicle Administration – Warrant for Personal Information and Reporting.

As you may be aware, many states have issued distinctly marked driver's licenses or similar driving privilege documents to undocumented immigrants. Maryland immigrant-related organizations have encouraged individuals to obtain such licenses in our state.

I guess it is a mixed blessing. Having a driver's license can have unintended and frightening consequences. On Sunday, February 23, at a town hall meeting in Columbia, I heard stories of young Latino men stopped by local police officers because they had broken taillights. Perhaps, if they didn't have driver's licenses, they would not have been driving, they would not have been stopped, the police wouldn't have called U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and these young men with no criminal records would not have been detained for months in ICE detention facilities, like the one in Howard County. These men and other immigrants tell me they now check every headlight and taillight before they begin driving, which is the least of the trauma they face.

But now, we can forget about broken taillights. ICE doesn't have to wait for the police to stop someone. We find that Maryland MVA and other states' DMV records have become "a gold mine" for harvesting personal information, including facial recognition from state databases without the consent of citizens or other individuals in the United States.

Now armed with ultra-clear photos and current addresses, ICE has expanded its number of "targets." Despite the current administration's alleged focus on criminals, ICE is zealously, intensively and extensively using state driver's license records to enforce civil immigration rules, increasing the number of arrests and detentions of individuals with no criminal records by 300% over the previous administration. The indiscriminate use of state driving records shared with ICE that can be used to track ANYONE violates every Marylander's right of privacy and right to be secure in their person and their home from unwarranted searches.

No one disputes the authority of state, local or national law enforcement to obtain information that will aid in a criminal investigation and prosecution. But the widespread trolling of state data because a

particular politician may gain some advantage, to identify individuals who are no threat to the security of the community, without any legitimate basis is morally, legally and constitutionally wrong. If ICE needs to obtain MVA data, let it demonstrate its need with a judicial warrant.

My Unitarian Universalist faith, shared by 4000+ UUs in Maryland, calls me to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person. That dignity includes being secure in one's person and one's home, from government intrusion or seizure without a legitimate cause agreed to by a judge and a subsequently issued judicial warrant.

I encourage you to support SB 649/HB 892

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Caldiero

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Sources:

ICE Agents Buy Driver License Data To Track Immigrants, 12/3/2019, Quartz

<https://qz.com/1760046/ice-bought-state-driving-records-to-track-undocumented-immigrants/>

Gold Mine --

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/fbi-and-ice-are-using-dmv-gold-mine-for-facial-recognition-scans/>

ICE Should Get Warrant or Subpoena for State Records

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/drivers-licenses/ice-dmvs-share-information/>