

January 28, 2021

Anita Lampel
Bethesda, MD 20814

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB234/HB23
Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access

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

FROM: Anita Lampel

My name is Anita Lampel. I live in Bethesda, in District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB234/HB23, Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access. Our immigrant neighbors believed the promise we made to keep their information private if they obtained drivers' licenses. Instead we have allowed warrantless searches of their data through the MVA's database. This means federal officers can sniff around and decide to go after folks who have committed no crimes once in the United States.

When my mother was ten-years-old, her parents brought her into the United States without documentation from Canada, where she'd been born, along with four siblings. My mom was an excellent student, as were her siblings, and no one got into any trouble. Still, seven years after they entered, the family was somehow discovered and summarily sent back to Canada. My mom did not finish high school until decades later. The trauma to her and her brothers and sisters was enormous. My 97-year-old aunt still talks about that, and how she did everything she could to return to the United States after WWII.

Through this family story, I am able to feel a connection to those who are here, living productively, contributing to society, doing what we asked them to do by getting a driver's license, but who fear deportation. Please honor the commitment you made to these residents and communities across Maryland and do not allow warrantless searches of our MVA database.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB234.