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Favorable Testimony for SB0234 Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access

To: Chair Senator William Smith and other esteemed members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Dianne Seiffert
Date: January 22, 2021

My name is Dianne Seiffert, a 50 -year resident and homeowner in Montgomery County. I submit this testimony in support of SB0234 which would prohibit the MVA and state and local law enforcement agencies from sharing personal data with federal agencies for civil immigration enforcement, and also for criminal immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. It also would require transparency through public reporting of all such requests.

The known and common acts of having personal data inappropriately and unjustly used against them by local law enforcement agencies which endangers their rights to personal privacy and drives the fear of immigrant families and loss of trust in their governments. Decreased law enforcement effectiveness and increased economic burdens are the result for both immigrants and state and local jurisdictions. To codify these prohibitions is needed at the State level so all Maryland residents' privacy rights are fairly and uniformly treated.

I ask members to pass SB0234 out of Committee, and that Committee members individually and publicly declare your support to all Senate colleagues, and work to encourage all Senators to join you in passage by the full Senate.

Respectively submitted,

Dianne Seiffert
Montgomery County resident
Chair, Immigrant Justice Ministry
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