



January 25, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill SB234/HB23

(Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access)

Dear Committee Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

We of the Baltimore Asian Resistance in Solidarity (BARS) are writing to you in support of SB234/HB23 to put restrictions on access to personal information of immigrants, especially in context of the data sharing seen between MVA and ICE.

Formed in response to police brutality against Michael Brown and Freddie Gray in the winter of 2015, BARS brings together Asians and Pacific Islanders of all backgrounds in Baltimore to work in solidarity with our neighbors and the communities we share: Black, Indigenous, POC, LGBTQIA+, women, working class, disabled folks, incarcerated people, immigrants and refugees. We represent a justice-oriented Asian and Pacific Islander group in Baltimore, Maryland, including students, advocates, academics, workers, creatives, and more. Many of our members are first-generation immigrants, having moved to the U.S. from another country, are the children of immigrant parents, or have family members and close friends who have immigrated to the U.S. and call Maryland home.

It is our obligation to support SB234/HB23 because driving is a means of access to resources that everyone deserves and no one should be at risk for having their sensitive data be leaked in any situation, especially in context of how ICE is using this information to detain and deport undocumented immigrants in our state. This bill is vital to protecting the vulnerable members of our community who are already at risk in every aspect of their lives. We urge the Maryland General Assembly to act swiftly to pass SB234/HB23, in the spirit and dedication to making Maryland a safer place for immigrants in the United States.

For more information about Baltimore Asian Resistance in Solidarity or this position, please contact baltimoreasianresistanceinsolidarity@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Baltimore Asian Resistance in Solidarity (BARS)