

Testimony in Support of HB23 (SB234) - Judiciary – Personal Information-State and Local Agencies-
Restrictions on Access

To: Delegate Dana Stein, Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Tammy Spengler, Columbia, MD (Tammy424@me.com)

Date: January 22, 2021

I urge you to support of HB 23, Maryland Driver Privacy Act, requiring an officer, an employee, an agent, or Status: a contractor of the State or a political subdivision to deny inspection by a federal agency seeking access for certain immigration enforcement matters of a public record that contains personal information or a certain photographic images unless a valid warrant is provided; requiring law enforcement agencies operating certain databases to require certain individuals accessing the databases to provide certain information; requiring a certain annual report to the General Assembly; etc.

This bill separates the role of Maryland entities from participating in Federal law enforcement entities' inhumane and racist practices. Federal law enforcement would need to acquire a warrant to inquire and/or obtain information from State entities, such as someone's address. We should not participate in implementing Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) reign of terror campaign. ICE's tactics create distrust of the government in our marginalized communities and when we cooperate with ICE, they can no longer trust us.

It is time to stop the culture of incarceration and detention in our nation and create new pathways that meet the needs of our marginalized communities. Instead of controlling people through fear and intimidation, we should create pathways towards citizenship and belonging. ICE should not have unfettered access to people's personal information. IF federal authorities acquire a warrant, signed by a judge, then our state agencies can cooperate, otherwise residents' personal information should be protected.

I urge you to support HB23, the Maryland Driver Privacy Act and create a safer, more inclusive Maryland.

Tammy Spengler