

Karla Rodriguez, Resident of Prince George's County

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB23

Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access
Judiciary & Environment and Transportation Committee

January 27, 2021

Good Afternoon Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karla Rodriguez and I am writing today to ask for your support of the Driver Privacy Act (HB23). I live in the city of Riverdale and Prince George's County. I'm an undocumented mother of three and have been living in the United States for seven years. After two years of living here in Maryland, I was eligible for a driver's license - but I haven't gotten one because I'm too afraid that the MVA will share my information with ICE.

When I was a little girl, my grandmother always taught me the importance of obeying laws. She taught me that obeying the laws of the land are like following God's laws, and that we will do very well in life if we follow them. Now that Maryland has allowed us undocumented immigrants to get their driver's license legally, I want to be able to drive. But how can I trust the MVA and the government if they are just using our information to share it with ICE?

I have heard too many stories and testimonies of people who have had ICE show up at their doorstep after an encounter with police or simply for doing nothing but giving their information to the MVA. I do not want that to happen to me.

My children only know this county. Please pass the law so that we can drive without fear that ICE will review our data with the MVA. Thank you for reading my story.