

Amy Waychoff  
HB 023  
Judiciary Committee  
Opposed

January 27, 2021

My name is Amy Waychoff, and I have lived in Montgomery County for over 33 years. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 023. This bill would require state and local employees to deny access by immigration officials to any database of facial recognition except with a judicial warrant. Incongruently, other federal officials would continue to have access to these databases. This bill would also prohibit immigration officials from accessing public records that contain the personal information or photograph of an individual without a warrant. It can take considerable time to obtain a judicial warrant, opening the door to an increase of criminal illegal aliens on the streets. Passage of this bill would make Maryland only the second state, after Massachusetts, to do so. This bill would erect yet another barrier to full cooperation between local authorities and federal immigration officers. The state of Maryland has a duty to protect its citizens; passage of HB 023 would greatly impair its ability to do so. I strongly recommend an unfavorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

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