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Carol Stern
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

<u>**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB23/SB234**</u>
Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Carol Stern

My name is Carol Stern from Chevy Chase District 16. I am providing this testimony in support of HB23/SB234, Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access.

Jewish tradition teaches us that "when strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." This is the moral framework I believe we must use for all immigrant justice reform legislation.

Maryland first approved special driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants in 2013, and since then more than 275,000 people have signed up. Immigrant communities in Maryland applauded these new licenses as a great victory, because being able to drive provides huge economic benefits to families. Advocates and state officials also saw it as a way for the state to build trust in immigrant communities. This trust is now being undermined by the sharing of records with ICE without warrants and without informing those signing up for the special licenses of this arrangement.

As a driver in Maryland, I want to know that everyone on the road is a safe driver and is licensed. The current sharing of MVA information with ICE has made Maryland roads less safe by deterring undocumented residents from becoming licensed drivers. How is this in the best interest of Marylanders and public safety?

The state of Maryland has perverted the important use of this licensing process by allowing ICE to use information collected against those who in good faith obtain that license. HB23 will fix this unjust and unsafe practice by prohibiting ICE from accessing MVA records without a judicial warrant.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB23.