

Jeffrey A. Harrison

Date: January 25, 2021

Position: **Support / Favorable**

Bill Number: **HB 23 / SB 234**

Bill Title: Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access

Sponsor: Delegate Stein

House Committee: Judiciary

Dear Committee Chair Clippinger, Committee Vice-Chair Atterbeary, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 23.

Over the past three years, there have been several reports about Maryland agencies allowing federal immigration agencies to access the personal information and photographs in the Maryland driver's license database. This access has been obtained without subpoenas, court-issued warrants, or accountability.

Maryland residents need licenses to drive legally. Most residents who are old enough are allowed to obtain a Maryland driver's license. When Marylanders obtain licenses, we trust the state government to safeguard the database against misuse and abuse. I would like Maryland drivers to have trust in the state government and to continue to obtain licenses and automobile insurance.

To further that trust, HB 23 provide necessary reforms:

-Deny access to personal information in Maryland database records for the purpose of federal civil immigration enforcement.

-Deny access to personal information in Maryland database records for the purpose of federal criminal immigration enforcement, unless there is a valid warrant issued by a federal court or a court of this state.

-Make a record of who is accessing information in the database.

-Report data annually to the General Assembly regarding the previous year's access to the database for federal immigration enforcement purposes.

HB 23 improves the trust that residents have in the state government. HB 23 also better assure that the constitutional rights of Marylanders are protected. Every Maryland resident has constitutional rights.

For those reasons, please **support HB 23** and report it as **Favorable** from the committee.

Thank you.

Jeffrey A. Harrison

(a member of Greenbelt People Power)

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