

January 25, 2021

Testimony SUPPORTING HB0023

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Emile Feldenzer and I am a resident of District 43 in Baltimore City. I am writing to urge you to SUPPORT HB0023, *Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access*.

When Maryland's legislators voted in 2013 to allow undocumented immigrants to apply for driver's licenses, they also created a new opportunity for ICE to conduct surveillance on those immigrants, unchecked and without oversight. MVA records contain sensitive information like the addresses, birthdates, and faces of drivers. By using that information to detain and deport undocumented residents, ICE has made a mockery of a law that was meant to keep our streets safe. It has abused the trust of people who tried to do the right thing by getting a license before driving, only to find themselves profiled by notoriously racist facial recognition software.

Driving privileges can open up a world of opportunity, making jobs, education, and healthcare far more accessible, especially in parts of our state that lack a robust public transportation system. To have that opportunity be truly open to everyone, regardless of immigration status, we must protect the privacy of licensees from ICE's abuses of power. Requiring a warrant to access MVA records and banning the facial recognition searches will make all of Maryland's communities safer.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely,
--Emile