

January 25, 2021

Dear Delegate Stein,

I am writing to you in favor of Bill HB0023 to limit ICE's ability to access the Maryland Vehicle Administration's (MVA) database and information.

The legislation extending driving privileges for undocumented immigrants was to increase community safety. Without regulating ICE's access to MVA's data, it directly goes against community safety values by not protecting undocumented immigrants, who are an important part of our communities here in Maryland.

ICE has only become less accountable and more insidious in recent years. Its documented activities include warehousing people in deplorable conditions for long periods of time, denying detainees medical treatment, physical and sexual abuse, scores of deaths of people in their "care", separating thousands of children from their parents, sterilizing dozens of people without their consent, making a mockery of the right to representation, and sending asylum-seekers back to situations where they face persecution and death for their beliefs or identities.

This bill would help protect our neighbors who already have the legal privileges to drive and should not have to worry that their information allowing them to do that could lead to being detained or deported.

Immigrants are a valued and important part of our community and should be protected, which is why I am writing in favor of bill HB0023.

Thank you,

Colline Emmanuelle
Maryland resident and community member