



TESTIMONY FOR HB0426

Vehicle Laws - Policies and Prohibition Against Discriminatory Traffic Stops

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Rosenberg

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0426 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Our members recognize that police officers have a difficult job, and that the majority of police officers carry out their duties with respect for the people that they serve. However, there have been too many officers who show respect only towards people who look like them and are aggressive and unprofessional towards those who don't.

This bill seeks to have the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission create a model policy against traffic stops based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation that any law enforcement agency can use to develop its own policies. Nothing good comes out of traffic stops that start with an animus towards the driver or the passengers in the vehicle, and as law enforcement agencies are struggling with the backlash from those types of traffic stops, this is a way forward.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.