



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

**Testimony of Willie Flowers; President
NAACP Maryland State Conference
In Favor of SB-767**

**-Labor and Employment - User Name and Password Privacy –
-Law Enforcement Agencies-**

**Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee
On February 21, 2023**

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY. I ALSO WANT TO THANK SEN. CARTER FOR SPONSORING THIS SB-767. IT IS A TOUGH CONVERSATION TO HAVE BECAUSE IT SPEAKS TO THE LONG-TERM PRACTICE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN POLICE IN THE FIRST PLACE BECOMING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WITH GUNS.

THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES OF WHY THIS LEGISLATION SHOULD BECOME LAW AND SEVERAL ON WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE UNTIL POLICE CORRUPTION ENDS AND THE INFILTRATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BY HATE GROUPS AND RACIST AMERICAN TERROR GROUPS ENDS THEN A BILL LIKE THIS IS NEEDED IN THE WORSE CAN SCENARIOS THAT ARE VERY COMMON THESE DAYS.

CONSISTENT WITH MOST “TOUGH ON CRIME LAWS” THAT HAVE COME THROUGH THIS BODY, THIS CAN BE A BILL THAT CAN DETER HATE AND INDIVIDUALS WHO, LIKE I SAID SHOULD, NEVER BE IN ANY UNIFORM UNTIL THEY CHANGE THEIR HEART AND MISSION IN LIFE.

IN A PERFECT WORLD A BILL LIKE THIS SHOULD NOT BE NEEDED BUT IF JANUARY 6, 2021 IS ANY EXAMPLE ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR GOVERNMENT WORKER FOR THAT MATTER SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED AND THE PUBLIC AND PERMANENT NATURE OF THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS SHOULD BE A RESOURCE TO UNCOVER THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH HATE GROUPS OR ANY ENTITY IMPORTANT TO PROVING A CONCERN ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO SERVE.

SOCIAL MEDIA BACKGROUND CHECKS SHOULD BE A STEP SO THAT DEPARTMENTS AND EVEN POLICE UNIONS SHOULD USE TO UNDERSTAND THE BACKGROUND OF INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING THEM. KNOWING WHO THESE INDIVIDUALS INTERACT WITH ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROCESS OF EMPLOYMENT WHETHER THE INFORMATION IS GOOD GOOD ARE BAD.

IF THE CANDIDATE'S SOCIAL MEDIA SCREENING IS NOT FIT TO ENDURE A CHECK WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO EXPLAIN IT THEN THEY MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB.

I ENCOURAGE A FAVORABLE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU.