

SB1 - UNF

Across the country state legislatures have been passing similar legislation to SB1, and almost immediately District Courts throughout the nation have enjoined their enforcement, as they are clearly unconstitutional. I hope that Maryland does not repeat this mistake.

There seems to be a misconception that enforcement of the Constitution is solely the province of Article III courts, and there is no onus upon legislatures and executives to consider the constitutionality of a law they create or enforce. This is not correct. All public officials take an oath to uphold the Constitution. It is bad faith to pass a law knowing it is unconstitutional and leave it for the Courts to strike the law down. The State of Maryland could pass a law tomorrow allowing for the use of improperly obtained evidence and leave it to the Courts to enforce the ruling of *Mapp v. Ohio*, but that would be an equally risible exercise of power.

If our government wants to gain the trust of its citizens, it must adhere to the law even when they don't like it. When the States show contempt for the Bill of Rights they erode their credibility and further fray the social contract which holds this great nation together.

Thank you.

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