

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with the Campaign for Justice Safety and Jobs and the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability.



I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in opposition to SB0396, the Drug-Free Roadways Act of 2024.**

I share the bill sponsors' interest in safe and drug-free roadways. However, SB0396 is primarily focused on repealing last year's HB1071, which banned searches based on the odor of marijuana.

The odor of marijuana has long been an excuse to conduct vehicle searches because it is completely subjective and even when a search reveals no evidence of cannabis possession or use, the courts have held that the lack of evidence doesn't disprove that the officer smelled marijuana. Unnecessary and invasive searches are the result of police suspicion based on the odor of marijuana. As the Department of Legislative Services pointed out in the Racial Equity Impact Note on last year's HB1071, Black drivers in Maryland are stopped by police at vastly disproportionate rates; which means Black people are the ones most affected by policies that result in excessive and unnecessary searches of ordinary people trying to live their lives.

Rather than conducting unnecessary and invasive searches, our communities should be focused on evidence-based strategies to reduce drug use, decrease drug use while driving, and increase roadway safety.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in opposition to SB0396**. Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg
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