

Good afternoon, Delegate Foley and members of the committee. My name is Shula M. Clark, and I am a resident of Clarksburg Town Center. I am here today to testify in strong support of this bill, which would prohibit HOAs from requiring sensitive information as a condition for accessing recreational common areas.

I have personally experienced the intrusive and unnecessary data requests from my HOA in Clarksburg Town Center. They currently require residents to submit their children's birth certificates to obtain pool passes. This practice is a gross overreach of their authority and a serious invasion of privacy.

This requirement forces residents to divulge highly sensitive information, including parentage, which is entirely irrelevant to verifying residency for pool access. The HOA has no legitimate need for this level of personal detail. They could easily verify residency through less intrusive means, such as utility bills or their own HOA records.

This policy raises several serious concerns:

Privacy Violation: Birth certificates contain private family information that should not be shared with a non-governmental entity like an HOA. There is no assurance that this sensitive data is being stored securely, leaving residents vulnerable to potential data breaches and misuse.

Discrimination: This practice can inadvertently reveal sensitive information about adopted children, potentially exposing their adoption status before their families are ready to share it. It also poses a risk of discrimination against transgender children, as birth certificates can reveal gender assigned at birth. This is unacceptable.

National Security Risk: Maryland is home to numerous federal employees, including personnel from agencies like the FBI and CIA. Imagine the potential national security implications if these individuals were required to submit sensitive documents like birth certificates to their HOA. This creates an unnecessary vulnerability and potential target for

those seeking to exploit such information. We must protect the privacy of those who protect our nation.

This bill is crucial for protecting the privacy and security of Maryland residents. It sets a clear boundary, preventing HOAs from overstepping their authority and demanding sensitive information they do not need. It ensures that all residents, regardless of their family structure or background, can enjoy community amenities without fear of discrimination or privacy violations.

I urge the committee to favorably support this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully

Shula M. Clark

Shulaclarke2000@gmail.com