TESTIMONY FOR HB0516
Motor Vehicles - Automated Enforcement Programs - Privacy Protections

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Korman
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative
Coalition **Person Submitting:** Aileen Alex, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0516 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are deeply concerned about the possibility of federal immigration authorities accessing and misusing personal data collected by our state and local agencies, all funded by taxpayer dollars. This could happen without the protections offered by HB0516. This bill aims to address privacy concerns associated with automated enforcement systems, such as traffic cameras, ensuring that recorded images and data are protected and used appropriately.

HB0516 prohibits state and local agencies from using recorded images or associated data without a warrant, subpoena, or court order unless it's for legitimate traffic or law enforcement purposes. Moreover, the bill mandates the eventual removal and destruction of recorded images and data period to protect individual privacy.

The bill also enforces data minimization, purpose specification, data deletion, and auditing to ensure that only necessary information is collected and retained. This approach minimizes the risk of unrelated individuals being swept up a mass surveillance action. Additionally, the bill bans the use of facial recognition and biometric monitoring in automated cameras, further safeguarding privacy.

By addressing these privacy concerns, HB0516 can help restore and increase public trust in automated enforcement systems. The core premise is that data from traffic enforcement cameras should be used solely for traffic safety, not mass surveillance. Strong privacy protections are crucial to preventing data misuse and ensuring that these systems are used responsibly.

For Maryland residents, the benefits of HB0516 include enhanced privacy protections and clear guidelines on when and how recorded images and data can be accessed by authorities. By limiting access to personal data, the bill reduces the potential for misuse, particularly by federal immigration authorities, and provides an additional layer of protection for immigrant communities. In doing so,

HB0516 fosters trust in state and local agencies and aligns with Maryland's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of its residents.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition steadfastly supports this bill and similar initiatives that protect all Marylanders' privacy and security.