

Testimony for Senate Judicial Proceedings
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
SB292 – Motor Vehicles – Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence
FAVORABLE

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and committee members:

My name is Beverly John. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of my family and community. I am a concerned community member, as well as a member of the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability and the Prince George's County Coalition for Police Accountability.

It is my understanding that the goal of this legislation is to decrease the number of traffic stops for low-level infractions. Unfortunately, we have experienced too many traffic stops turn into serious physical, psychological and economic harm to our communities, especially in over-policed Black and Hispanic neighborhoods. Statistics show that Black and Hispanic drivers are searched approximately twice as often as white drivers which increases the possibility of unwarranted use of force violations.

Additionally, limiting non-safety related stops would allow police to spend more time to focus on dangerous driving and serious crime, increasing public safety. Therefore, we urge a "favorable" vote on SB292.

Thank you.