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Colesville in MD, 20904
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TESTIMONY ON HB635 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Motor Vehicles – Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence

My name is Heidi Rhodes. I live in Colesville and I am a resident of District 14. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) in support of HB 635, Motor Vehicles - Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence. JUFJ organizes over **6,000 Jewish Marylanders and allies in support of local campaigns for social, racial, and economic justice.**

This bill will do two important things: it will limit the current police practices of non-safety-related traffic and other pretextual stops, and it will free limited police resources to focus on safety-related efforts.

Non-safety-related traffic stops disproportionately target and harm Black and brown communities, waste police resources by diverting their attention away from dangerous driving, and do not improve public safety. Rather, they expose police and drivers to violent encounters, and they produce racial disparities in traffic enforcement. In fact, studies show that Black drivers are stopped 20% more often than white drivers when these stops are allowed.

The most recent data about [road fatalities in Maryland](#) show that the persistent causes of dangerous driving were caused by speeding and aggressive driving, drug and alcohol impairment, distracted driving, and the failure to use seat belts. Allowing police to focus on these types of dangerous driving stops, rather than non-safety-related stops, would empower police to focus on implementing evidence-based road safety measures.

Passing this bill will allow Maryland to join jurisdictions around the country that have embraced this common-sense and data-driven approach to improve traffic safety, strengthen public safety and community trust, spare drivers and officers the dangers of unnecessary traffic stops, and reduce racial disparities in traffic enforcement. **On behalf of JUFJ, I respectfully urge the Senate to pass Bill HB 635.**