

**Testimony on Senate Bill 854 – Favorable
SB0854 – Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers-Restrictions**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 24, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Marcia Coe and I am a resident of Leonardtown, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0854.

Racial profiling is discriminatory and law enforcement officers should be prohibited from this practice. Law enforcement officers who disclose instances of racial profiling should be protected from retaliatory punitive action.

Because racial profiling means basing decisions on racial bias or false assumptions, rather than reasonable suspicion or evidence, it violates the Fourth Amendment guarantee to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures.

Racial profiling alienates people from law enforcement, undermines community-policing efforts, and erodes trust. As a result, law-enforcement officers and agencies lose credibility with the very communities they are sworn to protect and serve.

I urge you to vote favorably for this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Coe, MD
Leonardtown, MD 20650