



**TESTIMONY FOR  
SB0854 – Law Enforcement Officers – Powers and Prohibitions**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Sydnor

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0854 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

SB0854 strengthens civil rights and accountability by setting clear statewide limits on law enforcement powers. It establishes that federal law enforcement officers may only exercise Maryland-granted powers of arrest, search, and seizure if they are acting in accordance with State law. This ensures that every person in Maryland—regardless of the uniform the officer wears—is protected by our state’s standards of equal treatment and due process.

My concern is racial profiling. Too often, discriminatory practices go unchecked when state oversight is absent or when officers fear retaliation for speaking out. SB0854 directly addresses this by explicitly prohibiting racial profiling, protecting whistleblowers, and creating a civil cause of action for those harmed.

Whether speaking out, recording activity, or simply going about their business, Marylanders deserve to know that all officers are bound by enforceable, humane standards. These safeguards build trust, reduce preventable harm, and protect our democracy.

We respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0854.