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**TESTIMONY ON SB0854 – IN SUPPORT**

**Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions**

**TO:** Chair Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Ydelka A. Schrock

My name is Ydelka A. Schrock. I am a resident of Harford County District 34A. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0854, Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Restrictions, on behalf of Together We Will Harford County Indivisible (TWW). TWW is an inclusive and diverse group of 500 regular members, with over 1,000 followers on social media, working together to create a just community that empowers individuals to participate in our democracy and stand up for social, racial, and economic justice to create a place where all can thrive.

The success of the United States has in part come from the immigrants who inhabit this nation. They have played a crucial role in enriching our economy, fostering innovation, and enhancing the cultural diversity which plays a vital role in the societal development of the United States. Now they are being scapegoated and demonized.

In America we continue to see images of our neighbors being racially profiled by federal agents who have sworn an oath to uphold the constitution yet continuously disregard its principles. In Maryland we must not let our police officers follow this example. Racial profiling has profound social and cultural impacts on communities that experience it. This act can shape the perceptions and interactions that an individual will have with institutions, and it will only erode trust between law enforcement and communities of color. Racial profiling perpetuates negative cultural stereotypes that can have intergenerational effect and prolong historical traumas within the community. This can lead to significant economic and institutional consequences that can affect opportunities, resources, and social mobility.

When individuals feel targeted and harassed by authorities a sense of mistrust and hostility will lead to less cooperation with law enforcement and a reduction in reporting crimes. Racial profiling will only undermine community safety and social cohesion. This is why passing this bill is so important. Maryland law enforcement should continue to uphold the constitution and protect the civil liberties of the residents they have sworn to protect.

On behalf of TWW, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0854.