

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

I am a resident of **District 46**. I am a dedicated resident and community leader in Baltimore City's southeast: a community association board member, workforce development professional, and industrial and organizational practitioner. I live in and love the vibrant immigrant hub of Baltimore City, the engine of Baltimore's growth, near Highlandtown in District 46. I have been advocating and protesting for my immigrant neighbors and their human rights since 2016 when the lawless assault against them began in earnest with the illegal travel ban. **I am testifying in support of SB 854 to ban law enforcement racial profiling.**

This bill seeks to ensure we keep existing constitutional protections and limit federal abuses under so-called "Kavanaugh Stops" (and subsequent Kavanaugh Assaults). It codifies existing constitutional protections against racial profiling through language explicitly forbidding racial profiling by law enforcement. It makes clear that federal agents seeking to rely on Maryland law as a basis for their activities are subject to the same Maryland standards as state and local law enforcement. And it ensures these rights are enforceable through a private cause of action. We need this bill. Without clear state-level protection, federal rulings can weaken how our rights are protected in Maryland.

As a Baltimore resident, trust in our communities that law enforcement is not operating from racial prejudice is critical to violence reduction and case closure rates. We need to send every clear signal we can as the State that we don't support that sort of discrimination.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB 854.

Sincerely,

John Preston Ford

529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224