

**Testimony on Senate Bill 0854 – Favorable
SB 0854 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers – Restrictions
Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee**

Hearing Date: February 24, 2026

Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Proceedings Committee,

My name is Rosa Hance, and I am a resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland. I am writing in strong support of **SB 0854**. Prohibiting racial profiling is fundamental for our continuing democracy.

This bill seeks to ensure constitutional protections and limit federal abuses of power. We need this bill. Without clear state-level protections, federal rulings can weaken how our rights are protected in Maryland. I strongly support that it (1) Codifies existing constitutional protections against racial profiling through language explicitly forbidding racial profiling by law enforcement; (2) 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 (3) Ensures these rights are enforceable through a private cause of action.

It is important for us to protect our residents and to make clear that in order to rely on Maryland law in their activities, federal agents are subject to the same standards that apply to all other law enforcement officers operating in Maryland. In this way, this bill restricts federal agents' ability to engage in racial profiling or other abuses. And, by including a private cause of action, this bill ensures that its important protections are enforceable in state court.

I ask you for a favorable report on this important bill to prevent racial profiling by federal entities. Thank you.

Rosa Hance

Great Mills, Maryland