

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB0854 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 20, 2026

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

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0854, Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions

Racial profiling has affected black and brown people since long before the recent terrorism by ICE, but currently there is not even a pretense at the federal level that racial profiling is wrong. Besides being morally reprehensible, racial profiling violates both the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. However, the federal government is increasingly abandoning the Constitution, so Maryland needs to step up to the plate and stand strongly for the rights of all people. We need to make sure that we are doing everything possible to prevent racial profiling in Maryland. People should not have to view law enforcement officers with fear.

I respectfully urge you to issue a favorable report on SB0854.

Thank you.