



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony HB 351 - Constitutional Rights - Violations and Digital Unmasking Favorable Report

To: Sen. Will Smith, Chair, Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate Immigration,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry-Maryland
Date: April 2, 2026,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony IN FAVOR of **HB 351 - Constitutional Rights - Violations and Digital Unmasking** which will allow Maryland State Police to gather as much available information as possible about a federal agent engaged in certain alleged misconduct and allow that such information may be made available when complaints are filed under 42 USC Section 1983, civil rights violations.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents currently enjoy qualified immunity, a judicial doctrine (not a statute) that protects them from lawsuits unless it can be proven that they have committed an egregious violation of constitutional rights, under 42 USC Section 1983.

Recent efforts in Congress and several states—New York, California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Tennessee—seek to change this. While qualified immunity remains, the subject bill will allow state law enforcement officers to obtain as much evidence as possible in pursuit of a civil rights violation by a federal immigration officer.

Ensuring that evidence is collected when an egregious violation of a person's civil rights has occurred and making that evidence available when a complaint is filed is consistent with my faith. I share that faith with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across Maryland. It calls me to affirm justice for all, a principle embedded in our U.S. Constitution AND our Maryland Declaration of Rights; a principle that insists that no one is above the law. We must do all that we can to ensure and aid accountability.

Please vote in favor of **HB 351**.

Thank you.

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