

Testimony on Senate Bill 854 – Favorable
SB 854 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 24, 2026

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

My name is Jean Cavanaugh, and I live in Frederick MD. I am writing in support of **SB 854 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions.**

As we recently heard in testimony in support of banning 287g agreements with DHS/ICE, we know that local law enforcement may have racially profiled drivers in support of the current administration's aggressive deportation goals. This is wrong and violates the constitution. Federal agents working in Maryland should also be prohibited from stopping people due to their ethnicity or accent. In spite of the recent Supreme Court ruling on ICE traffic stops in California, the 4th and 14th amendments to the Constitution are still the law of the land.

SB 854 will explicitly codify current constitutional protections in Maryland law applicable to both local law enforcement and federal agents. Additionally, this bill provides an enforcement mechanism through private cause of action.

We must always remember that under this Administration, ICE and CBP agents are detaining people for long periods of time and without due process, often violating 6th amendment and other constitutional rights. The repercussions on each person wrongfully detained is enormous. Additionally, detention facilities are not providing healthy conditions for those detained. The persistent and loud racist tropes and actions coming from the White House are despicable and illegal. Strong state immigrant justice laws will help to protect the more than one million immigrants living and working in Maryland, as well as all people of color, citizen or not.

Please vote favorably for SB 854.

Thank you,

Jean Cavanaugh

Frederick, MD