

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

SB854 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

2/20/2026

Dear Honorable Chair, Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sara D. Ryan, and I am writing in support SB854 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers – Restrictions

We must pass this bill protecting our community from racial profiling. Our democracy depends upon law enforcement exercising uniform standards. Our country is founded on the premise that we are created equal. Unfair practices like profiling create bitterness and fear. Then public distrust in law enforcement increases. Furthermore, community members are less likely to cooperate if they sense that a member of their community is being subjected to harsher treatment under the law.

I am a senior citizen. I watched what has happened over decades when civil right were violated and people of color were singled out for more frequent and harsher penalties. No one is safe when resentment and distrust grow within targeted groups of people.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB854 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers – Restrictions. We must prohibit a law enforcement officer of law enforcement agency from engaging in racial profiling. We must also prohibit a law enforcement agency from taking retaliatory punitive action against a law enforcement officer who discloses information concerning racial profiling. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sara D. Ryan, 6420 Jefferson Boulevard, Frederick, MD 21703