

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

**Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee**

**February, 24, 2026**

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

My name is Lisa Sullivan, and I am a resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 0854**.

This bill seeks to ensure we keep existing constitutional protections and limit federal abuses. 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. We need this bill. Without clear state-level protections, federal rulings can weaken how our rights are protected in Maryland.

Further, we can 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 to support this important bill to prevent racial profiling by federal entities.  
Thank you.

Lisa Sullivan

Hollywood, Maryland