

Testimony on Senate Bill - **Favorable**
SB0854 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions
Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 24, 2026

My name is Joyce Sims and I appreciate this opportunity to offer comments on SB0854 outlining specific restrictions on the part of federal law enforcement officers.

While I am pleased to be able to say that I have faith in my local St. Mary's County law enforcement, I cannot say the same for federal immigration enforcement officers, as it is evident they are failing to meet even the most basic accepted standards for policing, resulting in significant injury and harm to citizens and immigrants alike.

One of the more egregious tactics being used is racial profiling. This not only violates the Constitution's core promises of equal protection under the law for all persons and freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, it also creates a dangerous environment for citizens and police alike.

Questioning and detaining people based on skin color or language spoken serves to create an environment of volatility and has proven to escalate situations that could have been neutralized effectively through proven police tactics. It has been well established that such action alienates communities from law enforcement and causes loss of credibility and trust among the people our police are sworn to protect and serve.

Latino citizens are especially at risk of harm, even those who are legally documented. It has been reported that higher percentages of Latino citizens are avoiding important activities, including being engaged in their children's schools and reporting crimes to police for fear of being detained without cause. I personally find the lie that deporting my neighbor is how I secure better pay and working conditions to be wrong and offensive.

The provisions of SB0854 establishes a reasonable standard for all law enforcement in Maryland, including federal officers.

Thank you for your favorable vote on SB0854.

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Ref

American Military Univ; Aug 15, 2024; Bufano, V.A.

<https://www.amu.apus.edu/area-of-study/criminal-justice/resources/racial-profiling-vs-criminal-profiling/>

EBSCO Academic Research; 2024; Sims, V.

<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/law/racial-profiling-and-criminal-justice>

Cato Inst; Jan 22, 2026; Eddington, P. G.

<https://www.cato.org/commentary/ice-buys-its-way-around-fourth-amendment>