

HB1262-FAV

Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Restrictions

Judiciary Committee

March 5, 2026

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in favor of HB1262 Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Restrictions. This law, if passed, would clarify that federal agents relying on Maryland law as a basis for their actions are subject to the same Maryland standards as state and local law enforcement; explicitly prohibit racial profiling by law enforcement; and ensure these rights are enforceable through a private cause of action. These actions would mitigate the disastrous impact of *Perdomo v. Noem*, which allowed ICE to continue its practice of racial profiling.

For over a year, federal agents have been acting lawlessly across American cities by violating existing protections, racially profiling residents and committing abuses without consequence. Racial profiling violates the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments and undermines public safety and community trust in Maryland. Racial profiling is more than unconstitutional: it is morally abhorrent, exposing citizens to police action, not because of what they did, but because of who they are.

Even though we cannot prevent federal law enforcement from enforcing federal law, we can make clear that if they 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. To do otherwise would essentially permit ICE to continue its racial profiling.

Racial profiling does not make our communities safer—it makes us fearful and exposes us and our neighbors to lawless and senseless violence. Countless Marylanders like me are horrified to see the extreme levels of abuses by the federal government and all the people being stopped, harassed, and even arrested because of the color of their skin. Federal agents are flooding American cities across the country and not being held accountable. We are witnessing in real time their abuses of authority as they engage in blatant racial profiling, illegal and baseless arrests, and excessive force against people.

This lawless behavior by federal agents made 2025 Immigration and Customs Enforcement's deadliest year in two decades. There have been 16 shootings by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officers since July 2025, including one in Glen Burnie. These abuses have only escalated under the Trump administration, emboldened by the U.S.

Supreme Court's (SCOTUS) refusal to check federal abuses. Worse, their lawlessness sends the wrong message to state and local law enforcement.

As recent events have plainly shown, Maryland must take affirmative steps now to ensure existing protections against racial profiling are not eroded here. I therefore strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of HB1262, without amendment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maryrose Wilson

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