

Hearing March 5, 2026
Mary Jo Kirschman for BeTheChangeBmore
Baltimore, MD 21214

Testimony on HB 1262
Position: Favorable
Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions

To: Chair Bartlett and Vice-Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Mary Jo Kirschman, D43, on behalf of BeTheChangeBmore

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1262

BeTheChangeBmore is a Baltimore area advocacy organization with a network of over 1300 Marylanders. Since 2016 we have been working in partnership with organizations statewide to protect democracy and expand peoples' rights at the local, state and national levels.

We support HB 1262 to ensure that Federal agents in Maryland operate in accordance with Maryland law, which prohibits racial profiling. Stopping, detaining or arresting people in our state based solely on a person's appearance is an abhorrent practice, reminiscent of the days of slave catching and Japanese internment.

We support the provision of this bill that gives people a way to sue for civil damages in cases of racial profiling, to redress the violation of their rights in Maryland.

Maryland cannot look the other way when Federal agents come into our state and violate our laws and protections. We need to stand up and face them down. If we don't defend the basic rights of our residents, who will?

Please vote to support HB 1262 and make sure this bill does not die in committee. Thank you.