

**Testimony on House Bill 1262 – Favorable
HB1262– Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers-Restrictions**

House Judiciary Committee

March 3, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alexandra Estes, and I am a resident from Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB1262- Limit Racial Profiling.

For more than a year, we have seen federal agents acting lawlessly as they flood American cities across the country. We have witnessed them abusing their authority as they have engaged in blatant racial profiling, illegal and baseless arrests, and excessive force against people trying to live their lives. These brutal tactics have made 2025 ICE's deadliest year in two decades. DHS and Immigration Agents are routinely defying court orders and engaging in mass civil rights violations.

I support HB1262 because Maryland must take affirmative steps to ensure existing protections against racial profiling are not eroded here, and to protect Marylanders from racial profiling and other abuses by federal agents to the maximum extent allowable by law.

I personally have a friend who has multiple family members who have been detained by ICE in another state simply because of the color of their skin. They are all legal American citizens. Let that sink in: citizens of our country being detained by our government due to the color of their skin. That should not be happening and it is not the country I want to live in. Maryland must do all it can to protect our community members and to set an example for other states. That is the only way we can save our democracy.

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) Ensure 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.

The state of Maryland must pass HB 1262 to ensure all residents are protected against racial profiling. Racial profiling violates the Fourteenth Amendment and harms community trust. Racial profiling violates the Fourth Amendment and undermines public safety. We must stop the erosion of our constitutional rights!

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1262.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Estes
15110 Whitetail Way, Darnestown, MD 20878