

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF**  
**HB 1262 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Restrictions**  
House Judiciary Committee | March 5, 2026

**Submitted by:**

Farnaz Edwards  
18680 Queen Elizabeth Dr.  
Brookeville, MD 20833  
District 14

**Position:** FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for HB 1262. This bill addresses three urgent needs: ensuring federal law enforcement officers operating in Maryland are bound by state law, prohibiting racial profiling, and protecting officers who report it.

First, anyone exercising law enforcement authority on Maryland soil should be accountable to Maryland law. Allowing federal agents to operate outside state standards creates a two-tiered system where some officers are effectively above the rules that govern everyone else. HB 1262 closes that gap.

Second, the bill's explicit prohibition on racial profiling is both necessary and overdue. Profiling is not only morally wrong – it is counterproductive, eroding the community trust that effective policing depends upon. Grounding this prohibition in statute gives residents a meaningful legal basis to challenge discriminatory treatment, beyond what internal agency policies alone can achieve.

Third, protecting officers who disclose profiling is essential. Without whistleblower safeguards, the culture of silence that allows misconduct to persist will continue unchecked. Officers who know they can speak up without risking their careers are far more likely to do so – and agencies are less likely to tolerate discriminatory practices in the first place.

Safe communities are built on trust and accountability, not unchecked enforcement power. I respectfully urge the Committee to give HB 1262 a favorable report. All Marylanders – regardless of race, national origin, or immigration status – deserve equal protection under the law.

Respectfully submitted,

Farnaz Edwards