

SB 854/HB 1262: Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee & Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to respectfully strongly **oppose SB 854/HB 1262**, concerning *Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Restrictions*.

Public safety depends on law enforcement officers having the ability to respond effectively, decisively, and in real time to rapidly evolving situations. **SB 854/HB 1262 raises concerns that additional statutory restrictions could limit officers' discretion and operational flexibility in ways that may hinder their ability to protect the public and ensure community safety.**

Law enforcement professionals are already required to operate under extensive legal standards, departmental policies, training requirements, and accountability measures. Imposing further broad restrictions through statute may create uncertainty in the field, discourage proactive policing, and complicate split-second decision-making in potentially dangerous circumstances that may affect public safety.

Additionally, policies that affect day-to-day law enforcement practices are often best developed at the departmental level, where leadership can tailor procedures to the unique needs of their communities while maintaining compliance with state and federal law. A one-size-fits-all statewide mandate will not account for the diverse challenges faced by urban, suburban, and rural jurisdictions across Maryland.

Ensuring accountability is essential—but it must be balanced with the need for officers to perform their duties safely and effectively. Measures that inadvertently undermine law enforcement capacity may have unintended consequences for crime prevention and emergency response.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 854/HB 1262**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals