



TESTIMONY TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB 1262 – PUBLIC SAFETY – LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS – RESTRICTIONS

POSITION: FAVORABLE

BY: Linda T. Kohn, President

DATE: March 5, 2026

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged, including those protected by the [4th Amendment of the US Constitution](#) and the [14th Amendment of the US Constitution](#). Consequently, the League supports the elimination of systemic bias which can be manifest as racial profiling. Racial profiling violates the 4th Amendment in that decisions are based on assumptions rather than reasonable suspicion or evidence. Racial profiling also contravenes the 14th Amendment by not affording all persons on US soil equal protection under the law.

HB 1262 seeks to secure existing constitutional protections and limit federal abuses in response to unrestrained threats to the first and blatant sanctioning of the second. Multiple [cases of racial profiling](#) have been documented when law enforcement officers in Maryland have assisted US Immigrant and Custom Enforcement (ICE) in its activities. These abuses have been emboldened by the recent US Supreme Court ruling in [Vasquez Perdomo v. Noem](#), where the Court held that ICE could make investigative stops based in part on apparent race or ethnicity. This decision was made in apparent violation of the 4th and 14th Amendments to the US Constitution and therefore requires Maryland to reaffirm the protections its residents have under state law.

As [summarized by the ACLU of Maryland](#), **HB 1262** specifically (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) ensures these rights are enforceable through a private cause of action in state court.

Because these provisions align with League positions, **the League of Women Voters of Maryland**, a member of the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability representing nearly 2,000 citizens throughout Maryland in its own right, **strongly urges you to issue a FAVORABLE report.**