

HB 1262 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions

Judiciary Committee

March 5, 2026

Dear Honorable Delegate Bartlett, Davis and Members of the Committee,

I, Cynthia Sokolow of Howard County, MD, urge you to vote **in favor of House Bill 1262**.

Over the past year, we have learned of instances where innocent people are detained by ICE. In many cases, victims are singled out because of their skin color.

I have lived for 30 years in Howard County where our police are dedicated to solving crimes, not racial profiling. During and after Donald Trump's first term, HoCo residents were wary of his disdain for people born outside the US. We voted twice in favor of the Liberty Act, which our protects our immigrant neighbors from discrimination.

Today we live in fear of ICE occupying our counties and state. ICE's recent history of abrupt attacks in cities nationwide threatens our rights under the Maryland state Constitution.

House Bill 1262:

- 1) Codifies existing Constitutional protections against racial profiling.
- 2) Forbids law enforcement from racial profiling
- 3) Enforces the same standards for federal, state and local law enforcement.

The swift enactment of the new law banning 287 (g) agreements substantiates the need to keep ICE activities, and therefore racial profiling, restrained. Sadly, this regulation alone is not enough. Passing HB 1262/SB 854 will specifically protect Marylanders from being targeted and is necessary to strengthen immigrants' rights in our state.

Please vote in favor of HB 1262.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sokolow
21042