

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

My name is Tatiana Santos, and I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland. I am speaking today in support of HB1262.

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.

In Nov 2025, I was stopped by local police in Frederick, MD for what the officer told me was “expired tags.” My tags had just been renewed and the sticker on the plate read 2029 so the fact that they were expired was disputable. After 15 minutes of exchange with the officer, it was determined there was a glitch in the MVA system and I was given a warning. When I got home and read my warning document, I noticed it listed HISPANIC in bold letters under the race section. With a 287g agreement in place at that time, it became clear that I was not stopped for expired tags, but rather for driving while Hispanic.

During the days that followed, I was weary of the police. As violence by ICE has escalated over time, I’ve become increasingly fearful about how my life could be endangered if stopped by federal or local law enforcement just for the way I look. You see, I also have a hidden disability. I was born with a congenital birth defect called arthrogryposis and as a result, my knees do not bend. What would happen to me if an officer tried to pull me out of a vehicle and force me to the ground? We have all seen the story of Ms. Aliya Rahman in Minneapolis. She was carried face down through the street by ICE agents and is now unable to lift her arms normally. Since Ms. Rahman’s ordeal, I’m fearful that one day I could be subject to the same type violence she suffered at the hands of ICE agents.

I support **HB1262** because this bill restricts federal agents’ ability to engage in racial profiling or other abuses. And, by including a private cause of action, this bill ensures that its important protections are enforceable in state court.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB1262**.