

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Kathryn Parke and I am a lifelong Marylander and a resident of Baltimore City. I'm frankly sad that Maryland must even put forth a bill that protects our residents from racial profiling, and I thank you for the opportunity to present my written testimony in favor of **HB1262 Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Restrictions**. This law, if passed, would explicitly prohibit racial profiling by law enforcement; clarify that federal agents relying on Maryland law as a basis for their actions are subject to the same Maryland standards as state and local law enforcement; and ensure these rights are enforceable through a private cause of action. These actions would mitigate the disastrous impact of *Perdomo v. Noem*, which allowed ICE to continue its practice of racial profiling.

Racial profiling violates the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments and undermines public safety and community trust in Maryland. For over a year, federal agents have been acting lawlessly across American cities by violating existing protections, racially profiling residents and committing abuses without consequence. When law enforcement targets someone based on that person's perceived or actual race, ethnicity, nationality or religion, rather than evidence of criminal activity, they are engaging in racial profiling. Such racial profiling is more than unconstitutional: it is morally abhorrent, exposing citizens to police action, not because of what they did, but because of who they are.

Without clear state-level protections, federal rulings can weaken how our rights are protected in Maryland by state and local law enforcement officers. Furthermore, even though we cannot prevent federal law enforcement from enforcing federal law, we can make clear that if they rely on Maryland law in their activities, federal agents are subject to the same standards that apply to all other law enforcement officers operating in Maryland.

To do otherwise would essentially permit ICE to continue its racial profiling. And it cannot be stated often enough: racial profiling does not make our communities safer—it makes us fearful and exposes us and our neighbors to lawless and senseless violence. This lawless behavior by federal agents made 2025 Immigration and Customs Enforcement's deadliest year in two decades. There have been 16 shootings by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officers since July 2025, including one in Glen Burnie. These abuses have only escalated under the Trump administration, emboldened by the U.S. Supreme Court's (SCOTUS) refusal to check federal abuses. Worse, their lawlessness sends the wrong message to state and local law enforcement.

Countless Marylanders like me are horrified to see the extreme levels of abuses by the federal government and all the people being stopped, harassed, and even arrested because of the color

of their skin. Federal agents are flooding American cities across the country and not being held accountable. We are witnessing in real time their abuses of authority as they engage in blatant racial profiling, illegal and baseless arrests, and excessive force against people. As recent events have plainly shown, Maryland must take affirmative steps now to ensure existing protections against racial profiling are not eroded here.

I therefore strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of HB1262, without amendment.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Parke, 2117 Lake Montebello Terrace, Baltimore MD 21218

2/23/2026