

Bill Number: HB1262

Position: Favorable (FAV)

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

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Submitted by: Niesha McCoy

913 Southerly Road,

Towson, MD, 21204

Email: nieshamccoy920@gmail.com

Phone: 410-979-9131

My name is Niesha McCoy, and I am here in strong support of HB1262.

While some argue that profiling helps law enforcement catch criminals, we must distinguish between criminal profiling, which relies on observable behaviors, and racial profiling, which is a discriminatory practice based on identity. Racial profiling is an unacceptable violation of our core American values of equality and due process, and it has no place in Maryland's justice system.

We are seeing the devastating consequences of this distinction right now.

In March, 2025, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Maryland resident for over a decade was illegally deported to El Salvador in direct violation of a federal court order barring his removal from the United States due to credible claims of gang violence in El Salvador. The United States Supreme Court eventually had to intervene, ordering the administration to facilitate his return after an 'administrative error' sent him to a notorious foreign prison.

Some might question how racial profiling plays into Kilmar Abrego Garcia's case.

In 2019, he was arrested in Hyattsville, MD on a charge of loitering outside of a Home Depot while seeking work as a day laborer. In a Gang Field Interview Sheet, a Prince George's County Police officer also alleged that Abrego Garcia was affiliated with the gang MS-13 simply because he was wearing a Chicago Bulls jersey and hat.

Additionally, as recently as January 2026, a U.S. citizen named Ramon Menera was detained specifically because an agent targeted his accent. Alarming, in September 2025, a 6-3 ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for federal agents to use speaking Spanish as a justification for stop.

HB1262 is the shield Maryland needs to ensure our residents are not targeted for the language they speak or the clothes they wear. We must ensure that a person's identity—real or perceived—is never used as a doorway to discrimination. I urge a favorable report on HB1262

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Thank you.