

Jeffrey A. Harrison

Date: January 26, 2021

Position: **Support / Favorable**

Sponsor: Senator Lam

Bill Number: **SB 234 / HB 23**

Senate Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Bill Title: Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access

Dear Committee Chair Smith, Committee Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 234.

Over the past three years, there have been several reports about Maryland agencies allowing federal immigration agencies to access the personal information and photographs in the Maryland driver's license database. This access apparently has been obtained without court-issued warrants and without accountability.

Maryland residents need licenses to drive legally. Most residents who are old enough are allowed to obtain a Maryland driver's license. When Marylanders obtain licenses, we trust the state government to safeguard the database against misuse and abuse. I would like Maryland drivers to continue to obtain licenses and to have trust in the state government.

To further that trust, SB 234 provides these necessary reforms, among others:

- Deny access to personal information in Maryland database records for the purpose of federal immigration enforcement, unless there is a valid warrant issued by a federal court or a court of this state.
- Make a record of who is accessing information in the database.
- Report activity data annually to the General Assembly regarding database access for federal immigration enforcement purposes.

SB 234 improves the trust that residents have in the state government. SB 234 also protects the constitutional rights of Marylanders. Every Maryland resident has constitutional rights.

For those reasons, please **support SB 234** and report it as **Favorable** from the committee.

Thank you.

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