



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter  
In Favor of SB851  
-Labor and Employment - User Name and Password Privacy - Law  
Enforcement Agency Exemption-  
Before the Senate Finance Committee  
On March 10, 2022**

**Chair Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee:**

**Senate Bill 851, requested by the Baltimore City Administration, would authorize certain law enforcement agencies to request the username and password of employee's or applicants for the purpose of reviewing their social media accounts. To achieve this, the bill exempts such agencies from the prohibition in state law against employers requiring employees or applicants to disclose any username, password, or other means for employers to access a personal account or service through an electronic communications device.**

**Senate Bill 851 is important because it will help ensure that communities in Maryland are policed by those with integrity, that those given the authority to enforce the law are mentally and emotionally fit to serve the public. This bill attempts to ensure that individuals seeking employment in law enforcement fall within these categories, a criteria of which includes not having a social media presence that promotes racist, anti-social, abusive behavior, or associations that are otherwise inappropriate or criminal.**

**This bill is particularly important and necessary for Baltimore City. The Consent Decree, of which the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) and the City are bound to adhere, mandates BPD, as part of its background investigations, to evaluate the social media accounts of candidates. In addition, this bill also aligns with the goals of last year's historic police reform which sought to impose better accountability measures and standards for policing in Maryland.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 851.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill P. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jill P. Carter, Esq.**