

Written Testimony for the Maryland House Judiciary Committee

Thursday, March 5th, 2026

[HB 1262 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions](#)

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Committee members,

My name is Dr. Matthew Fogg. I'm a retired Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal with 32 years of Federal Service, and speaking as a member of the Maryland [Caucus of African American Leaders](#) and as President of the [Heritage Chapter of Blacks In Government](#).

I have [testified before the Annapolis, Maryland, legislators](#), calling for "whistleblower" protections for law enforcement officers who expose rogue colleagues.

I support HB 1262 for the following reasons: I spent my entire 30-year federal law enforcement career with the U.S. Marshals Service, supervised by the Department of Justice, including overseeing nationwide enforcement "Dragnet" operations.

I have been a strong advocate against racism and racial profiling through an ongoing and unresolved employment-related civil rights lawsuit, validated by a final 2008 DC US District Court Jury Verdict—finding that the U.S. Marshals Service is ["Racially Hostile To African American deputy U.S. marshals."](#)

In 1994, I filed a class action suit alleging that systemic racism affects every African American deputy U.S. marshal. Amazingly, this civil rights case remains pending today as the longest outstanding litigation in America's history, now before both the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

What is the point I'm making for this legislation?

Why should Marylanders believe that the Department of Justice, which oversees Immigration and Naturalization and ICE agents who work with U.S. Marshals, should believe these federal and state agents won't continue the same racial profiling against Marylanders?

Soon after arriving at my duty station in Washington, D.C., from training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy, my White supervisor said, "Fogg, I know you have all that fancy training but let most of that go because this is how we do things here."

Often, our enforcement culture involved non-policy practices that included racial profiling or any means necessary to raise our arrest statistics and project a media

image of ridding our cities of criminal elements, the exact same justification we hear today for tracking down illegal immigrants.

HB-1262 is reasonable in that the State of Maryland must not allow a proven Federal culture of racism to infect its law enforcement operations under any circumstances.

This bill aims to hold federal law enforcement officers accountable when they operate under the color of state law, given the Department of Justice's history of violating civil rights statutes.

Federal agents should not be exempt from consequences for violating federal or state civil rights laws without some form of state accountability provided in this Bill.

This Bill provides "whistleblower" protections for officers willing to come expose operations and procedures that violate Maryland and Federal laws.

My career and those of many other federal agents were destroyed for blowing the whistle on internal and external civil rights violations.

Without these protections, this toxic culture will continue to undermine public trust, as depicted in media coverage of Federal ICE operations nationwide.

If the racial divisions in America's law enforcement culture do not change and this bill is rightfully passed, the culture will continue to perpetuate the same harmful racial biases against Black, Brown, and all communities.

For the above reasons, the Congress of African American Leaders and the Blacks In Government Heritage Chapter support Maryland's HB 1262, and I welcome your questions.

[MLK Our GOD is Marching On](#) (added after testimony)

- Fogg 2-minute oral testimony below before the Maryland House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Bartlet, and Committee members,

My name is Dr. Matthew Fogg, retired Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal with 32 years of federal service. I speak for the Maryland Caucus of African American Leaders and as President of the Heritage Chapter of Blacks In Government.

I support HB 1262 because it does three critical things:

HB 1262 requires accountability. When federal agents operate under Maryland authority, they must follow Maryland's civil rights standards. Currently, federal agents can engage in racial profiling with limited consequences because federal oversight has failed.

HB 1262 prevents a toxic federal culture from infecting Maryland operations.

Within our DOJ federal culture, many agents often followed non-policy procedures that included racial profiling or any means necessary to raise our arrest statistics and project a media image that we were ridding our cities of criminal elements, the exact same justification we often hear for immigration enforcement.

In 2008, a federal jury found that the U.S. Marshals Service maintains a racially hostile environment toward African American deputy U.S. marshals that's still pending today. For more information, please visit BigotsWithBadges.com.

HB 1262 also protects whistleblower agents who report violations from internal reprisals.

The bottom line is that Marylanders should not trust that federal agents won't bring a racial profiling culture to Maryland.

HB 1262, mandates that Federal agents operating in Maryland are mandated to obey Maryland laws

Finally, the question is simple: Should federal agents operating in Maryland be exempt from the civil rights protections Maryland requires of its own officers? The answer is no.

For these reasons, my organization supports HB 1262.

I welcome any questions.