



LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Bill: **HB1046 Vehicle Laws - Policies and Prohibition Against Discriminatory Traffic Stops**

Organization: PFLAG Salisbury Inc., PO Box 5107, Salisbury Maryland 21802

Submitted by: Nicole Hollywood, President of the Board

Position: **FAVORABLE**

SALISBURY PFLAG SUPPORTS ENDING DISCRIMINATORY TRAFFIC STOPS

I am submitting this testimony in FAVOR of HB1046 on behalf of PFLAG Salisbury, the Salisbury, Maryland Chapter of PFLAG National.

When law enforcement profile based on assumed perceptions of race, nation of origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, or gender identity the results can be tragic. These unfortunate and unnecessary incidents erode public trust in law enforcement and stigmatizes agencies that seek to serve the community that can be difficult to repair.

According to research by the National Center for Transgender Equality, half of transgender people report they are uncomfortable seeking police assistance, more than one-fifth (22%) of transgender people who had interacted with police report police harassment, and 6% of transgender individuals report that they experienced bias-motivated assault by officers. Additionally, a report by the NAACP found that a quarter of LGBTQ+ people and people living with HIV who reported in-person contact with law enforcement said they experienced harassment or misconduct.

Salisbury PFLAG supports requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission in consultation with the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center to expand the model policy against race-based traffic stops to include traffic stops based on national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual identity; and requiring a law enforcement officer making a traffic stop to report certain information to the law enforcement agency that employs the officer. Salisbury PFLAG believes that HB1046 will help to repair and strengthen the relationship between the LGBTQIA+ community and law enforcement and as a result recommends a FAVORABLE report in committee.