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Testimony Against MC Bill 2-24, The Freedom to Leave Act.

The title of the bill is attractive but does not help keep me safe concerning policing and enforcing laws. I love the word, "Freedom," but I want law enforcement officers to do their duties to keep me and my community safe.

We all know it is difficult to control people's behaviors and some are so out of control they are dangerous to themselves and others.

I object to this Bill because I believe the police need to have the freedom to perform their oath and enforce laws. With an increase in crimes and the criminals getting away with it, this is exactly why more citizens are scared.

Please allow the police to do their duty. I do not object to having my car searched if I have not violated any law. Officers are trained on how to conduct themselves and have consequences if they violate their policing policies. Too often individuals like to challenge police officers because they do not respect them.

A friend of mine disagrees with me about this Bill. He believes under the Constitution; police cannot search any car without a warrant or his consent. He says, if there is no crime, officers have no right to search.

In my opinion, if an officer stops an individual and that person has done nothing wrong, there is no need to be afraid if an officer asks to check the car. What is the harm? Sometimes stopping a driver is precisely how bad criminals are found by officers checking any suspicion.

The most important reason not to pass this Bill is some officers will be reluctant to make stops due to the new policy. Their concern is violators might feel they are harassing them with written citations. Why would we create adverse situations and unintended consequences to this new policy change? Officers may choose not to perform minor traffic violation stops. Do the right thing and oppose this Bill 2-24.