



February 23rd, 2024

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Freedom to Leave Act, Bill 2-24

Dear Members of the County Council,

The ACLU of Maryland is strongly in support of the Freedom to Leave Act, Bill 2-24, which furthers the essential goal of reducing racially disparate treatment by police, while also protecting public safety.

We have reviewed the testimony submitted by our coalition partner Silver Spring Justice Coalition, and agree with the arguments presented there in support of the bill. Prohibiting consent searches through this legislation will build off of similar bans in other states and jurisdictions that have reduced racial disparities in police interactions while also focusing police on the legally permissible reasons for conducting a search (which has been shown to increase the likelihood that a search will discover contraband).

We thank council member Jawando for introducing this bill, and thank the council for considering our position on this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Rocah".

David Rocah
Senior Staff Attorney

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