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**Testimony for the Senate Judicial proceedings Committee
March 6, 2018**

**SB 929 State Policies, Guidelines, and Regulations - Mitigation of Disparate
Impacts**

FAVORABLE

The ACLU of Maryland supports SB 929, which would require certain departments of state government to develop and implement procedures for identifying the disparate impact of policies, guidelines, and regulations on communities of color, with certain reporting mechanisms.

The importance of using a race equity lens to policymaking cannot be overstated, and yet state government actors everyday enact policies with little or no regard for their impact on communities of color. This is especially the case in the criminal justice system. The analyses required under SB 929 will provide a more complete demonstration of the criminal justice system's direct consequences on Marylanders of color. For example, it is unfortunately common knowledge that African Americans are over-represented in every dimension of the criminal justice system. The procedures required under SB 929 would allow state departments to better foresee and prevent further racial disparities, and work toward upending existing disparities.

For the foregoing reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 929.

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