

### Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**February 1, 2018**

### SB 344 – Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission – Police Officer Certification – Eligibility

### Support with Amendment

The ACLU of Maryland supports SB 344, which allows legal permanent residents (“LPR” or “green card holder”), who have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces to serve as police officers in Maryland. We support the increased opportunity for employment given to LPR veterans, but believe this opportunity should be extended to all LPRs, regardless of military service.

Every year, about 25,000 people in Maryland gain their LPR status[[1]](#footnote-1) and contribute to the Maryland economy as business owners, doctors, lawyers, and a host of other professions, but not police officers.

Allowing LPRs serve their community as police officers allows police agencies to be more representative and sensitive to situations that are unique to immigrants.

LPRs are already a part of the community, should be allowed to have opportunity to become police if they want.

The legislature must act swiftly to prevent these lawsuits against private citizens. We strongly urge a favorable report of SB 167.

1. https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)