

MILWAUKEE EQUAL RIGHTS COMMISSION WRITTEN TESTIMONY REGARDING THE USE OF FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Submitted by: Darryl Morin, National President, Forward Latino Date: June 18, 2025

Dear Chairman Snell and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

Submitted to: Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Forward Latino's Milwaukee membership. We are proud to be committed partners of the Milwaukee Police Department and value our ongoing collaboration to strengthen public safety across this great city. But I am here today to voice our strong opposition to the implementation of facial recognition technology at this time.

We have two serious concerns. First, the persistent and well-documented issue of false positives disproportionately impacting individuals from minority communities raises serious questions about fairness, accuracy, and the protection of our civil rights. Technology that misidentifies people — especially those from communities already facing systemic bias — cannot be the foundation for public safety.

More troubling, however, is the broader erosion of constitutional safeguards currently unfolding at the federal level. Week after week, we learn of private contractors gaining access to sensitive government databases — tax records, Social Security information, and beyond — with minimal oversight and growing impunity. Simultaneously, we hear the Executive Branch undermine the authority of the courts, while the majority in Congress, in large part, has abdicated its role as a check on this overreach. I shudder to think how this technology could be used by the federal government to identify individuals in Milwaukee it felt were being less than supportive.

There was a time when such warnings may have sounded far-fetched. Sadly, recent events have proven that time is over. We recognize the promise this tool may one day hold. But that promise must be matched by the maturity of the technology and discipline in its governance. Until our federal institutions restore the checks and balances our Constitution demands, any deployment of this technology is premature and potentially dangerous.

Thank you. May God bless each of you, and may God continue to bless the great City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 888-351-4024 or via email at dmorin@forwardlatino.org.

Thank you once again for your time and consideration.

arryl D. Morin National President