

Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee
February 9, 2021

HB 670 - Police Reform and Accountability Act 2021

UNFAVORABLE

To Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, and Committee members,

My name is Nathan Hill, and I live in New Carrollton, MD. I'm submitting my written testimony in opposition to HB 670 - Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021.

The work you are doing is urgent and needed for Maryland to lead in police accountability and reform at this pivotal moment in our nation, especially as we seek to address racial injustice and create communities where everyone can flourish. However, I too am concerned about this bill, that it doesn't go far enough in creating the necessary accountability to transform our broken systems.

I support a full repeal and replacement of the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights. This act does not go far enough.

In particular, more work needs to be done to provide civilian oversight on trial boards when a law enforcement officer is charged with misconduct or has broken the law. I think a third of a trial board being civilian is still low. There are too many gaps and questions that remain in this act that do not promote transparency and clear standards for communities and police departments to move forward.

Other bills, such as HB 139, HB 151, and HB 120, do a better job than HB 670 in addressing and moving forward Maryland in police accountability

and reform.

I urge an unfavorable report for HB 670.

Nathan Hill

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