

## **SB0747-Public Information Act - Personnel Records - Police Officers**

**Stance:** Unfavorable

**Testimony:** My name is Adiena Britt and I reside within the 45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. I am writing against SB0747 because it is an attempt to repeal parts of Anton's Law that was passed two years ago as part of a comprehensive Police Reform package. Police Officers in the State of MD have unprecedented protections that are not afforded to any other citizens. When they act in manner that violates someone's civil rights, they should not be protected. When they are accused of brutality of any sort, they should not be protected. If they have a history of being a repeat, violent offender of citizens; they should not be protected. This is a sad attempt to maintain the violent culture of policing.

I know from experience that there are divisions within police departments, who are supposed to investigate these incidents; yet time and time again they side with the police officers. These instances feel like they are covering up for officers, and often times they list complaints as "unsustained". This is common knowledge. All of these complaints should be part of what is divulged during a public information act request, because there is relevance in them. In order to establish that an officer has a pattern and practice of misconduct, regardless of whether the Internal Affairs Division chooses to cover up for them or not; is pertinent to the requestor.

Stop providing cover for the "bad apples", if such a thing exists. The culture of policing needs to be cleaned up and revamped. They don't need any more protections, they need to be better officers.