

Dear Chair Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with the Campaign for Justice, Safety and Jobs. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of SB0894.**

I am a former Baltimore City resident. I still visit the city every week to shop, attend church services, and visit attractions. I am joining the majority of city residents who want Baltimore City to have authority to oversee and govern its own police department.

Decisions about policing in Baltimore City should be made by those who understand the community's dynamics and are directly accountable to residents.

Local control empowers city residents to implement tailored strategies to combat crime, improve community relations, and foster trust in law enforcement. This lack of local control means that critical decisions about policing in the city are being made by people who don't know Baltimore. Their decisions are driven by broader state-level considerations rather than the specific needs and concerns of those neighborhoods.

This legislation represents the final and urgent step towards securing the autonomy necessary for Baltimore City to effectively govern its own police department. It's time to put the power back where it belongs—in the hands of those who know and care about Baltimore. Supporting SB0894 is not just about completing a process—it's about reclaiming city residents' voice, safety, and future. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0894.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg
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Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



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