

# State of Maryland

## Commission on Civil Rights

*"Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination."*



### *Officers*

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February 9, 2021

### **House Bill 151 – Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal POSITION: Support**

Dear Chairperson Clippinger, Vice Chairperson Atterbeary, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights ("MCCR"; "The Commission") is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

House Bill 151 seeks to repeal the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights ("LEOBR") in its entirety. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights support HB151 because we believe that LEOBR has been used as an extra-judicial mechanism by which law enforcement officers who have been accused of or found guilty of committing misconduct while on duty are not being held accountable. By repealing LEOBR, Maryland lawmakers, law enforcement officials, and communities can come together in a fresh start to adopt meaningful and effective police reform measures that adequately balance the protection of the community with the needs of those officers sworn to protect it.

Because of this, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable report on HB151. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.