

January 21, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill 276 (Johns Hopkins University - Police Department - Repeal)

To the Committee Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Shin and I've been a resident of Baltimore City for the past eight years since coming here for undergraduate at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). In that time I've seen the city change dramatically, along with the rest of the state and country, and in that time I've also learned of the history of Baltimore and struggles of its people. We see that in the current moment, as well as in years past, that over-funded and militarized police departments are used against unarmed, everyday citizens all throughout the United States, and specifically to murder and perpetuate violence against Black people, as well as those from other marginalized identities. I don't know why anything else needs to be said. I simply do not believe policing is a solution by any means to furthering a society that needs proper physical and mental healthcare systems and material support, in fact it is the complete opposite and creates more violence and unnecessary death. I believe that my taxpayer money and all state resources should go to networks that help someone else in my city live another day, especially in the midst of a pandemic, someone who needs housing, food, healthcare, and more. It sickens me to see it instead used to purchase weapons that are used against the impoverished and vulnerable.

I submit this testimony in full support of bill SB0276 to repeal the Johns Hopkins University Police Force, and demand that further steps will be taken towards building a future for Maryland residents that is free from fear of cruelty and surveillance from the police.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Shin