

I am testifying in favor of SB 627– Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights – Repeal and Procedures for Discipline

I currently have close associates who have been fighting for accountability for years. Had they not spoken out about their experiences with police brutality, police harassment, or police homicide, I would have believed there really is not an issue with the current policy that is the law of the state. In reviewing the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights however, I am of the belief that law enforcement officers are being afforded special privileges and treatment that shields them from true accountability when crimes against the civilian community are committed. The repeat offenders within the force continue to serve in our communities due to the protections of the LEOBR. It is the protections that creates the public outcry, the communal trauma, and steep mistrust of the police. We were the first state that implemented this controversial bill in 1974; fifteen more states followed suit. Yet there are a large community that has been harmed by this bill that never really was created to protect the citizens the officers served. The families of Jamaal Taylor, Keith Davis Jr., Anthony Anderson, Anton Black, and Tyrone West have been very public and vocal in their fight for accountability, however there are a lot of families in the background that cannot publicly expressed their frustration and have been traumatized by the sanctioned police.

I am urging you not to get caught up in another tweaking of this bill but to do a full repeal. By doing so is the language spoken for true accountability of the officers to the civilians they serve. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charlene Rock-Foster
Baltimore City Resident