

**AISHA N. BRAVEBOY**  
STATE'S ATTORNEY



**JASON B. ABBOTT**  
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**State's Attorney for Prince George's County**  
14735 Main Street, Suite M3403  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772  
301-952-3500

Chairman, William Smith, Jr.  
Vice-Chair, Jeff Waldstreicher  
Senate, Judicial Proceedings

Re: Senate Bill 600: Office of the Attorney General-Investigation and Prosecution of Deaths Caused by Police Officers

Chairman Smith and Vice-Chair Waldstreicher

I write in opposition of Senate Bill 600. As State's Attorney for Prince George's County, I believe that police accountability for misconduct in and out of office is paramount to the promotion of equal justice under the law. When I was elected, I created the Public Integrity Unit (PIU), specifically for the purpose of creating a dedicated unit to review, investigate and when appropriate, prosecute all misconduct by public servants including police officers in Prince George's County. Since the unit's inception, my office has successfully prosecuted several cases involving police officers ranging from an assault of a handcuffed citizens to the sexual assault of a fellow police officer. We have also investigated cases involving the death of one of the citizens of my community. Each case is reviewed and investigated independently by my office and presented to our grand jury for appropriate charges.

The prosecutors assigned to PIU are specialized and dedicated to this particular area of the law. They are the experts, both in the practice of these cases and in the law surrounding misconduct. Local State's Attorney's Offices are best suited and best equipped to handle these important cases. Further, local elected State's Attorneys are directly accountable to the citizens in their jurisdictions through elections. Removing their constitutionally granted authority through this legislation diminishes a prosecutor's accountability to their community and threatens to allow less then qualified attorneys to review these cases.

Criminal Justice Reform is a necessity throughout our country and in our State. However, this bill does not move us towards a more just system, in fact, it does quite the opposite. It does not allow local jurisdictions the opportunity to have a say in holding police officers that serve them accountable and defers that power to executive that answers to the entire State, rather than a specific community. It also still allows the police to police themselves and does not remove local law enforcement from the investigation. We must reform our system, we must gain back the public trust, but we must do so in a way that aligns with the separation of powers requirement of our Constitution and in a way that allows elected prosecutors the authority to independently investigate and prosecute these serious matters in their own jurisdictions. I urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 600.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Aisha Braveboy*  
Aisha N. Braveboy