

My name is Justin Otter and I am a graduate student worker at Johns Hopkins University. I am writing to provide testimony strongly in support of SB0276. As a student, I know the addition of more police on and around the Johns Hopkins campus would not make me any safer and would only make these spaces more dangerous, especially for students and community members of color. A private Johns Hopkins police force would be totally unaccountable to the community they claim to serve, as they would be funded and run by a private institution without community oversight of control. Even worse, arming these officers with deadly weapons makes them a much greater threat and will surely result in tragedy. Community safety is deeply important, but this police force will not serve the community and will only make the people of Baltimore less safe. I stand with community organizers supporting this bill and JHU sit-in, and I strongly support the passage of SB0276.