

TESTIMONY REGARDING SB 0276

Johns Hopkins University - Police Department - Repeal

To: Chairman William C. Smith, Jr. and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Alina Spiegel, District 46 Constituent

Date: January 19th, 2021

I am a fourth year MD/PhD student at Johns Hopkins and a proud Baltimore City voter and resident, writing **in favor** of **SB 0276**. I write out of concern for the safety of my colleagues and classmates, as well as my neighbors who live adjacent to the East Baltimore campus. I am especially concerned for Black and brown community members. University police have killed students and community members across this country, and I cannot stay silent while we put our own community at risk.

I have been a victim of crime twice in Baltimore City, once in my own neighborhood. Both cases would have been outside the coverage of a Johns Hopkins police department, and in fact, many student incidents occur off campus, when we are traveling to and from home. Many Hopkins affiliates have suggested expanding the Johns Hopkins SafeRide program as an alternative that does not put our Black and brown community members at risk, while providing peace of mind as we travel to and from our homes. Yet, Johns Hopkins instead decreased the scope of this program in 2019 due to funding limitations, while continuing to pursue a much more expensive police force. This choice suggests to me that Johns Hopkins is interested in protecting its property, and not its students and employees.

I am grateful to be a student at Johns Hopkins, and as a member of this institution, I think it is especially important to say something when we are about to do something harmful. Because our administration seems intent on pursuing this police force at all costs, I look to you, my representatives in the senate, to make a choice that values the people of Baltimore City over the interests of a wealthy institution--even when that institution is my own.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alina Spiegel

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