

**Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**February 3, 2021**

**SB 627– Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights – Repeal and Procedures for Discipline**

**FAVORABLE**

To Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee members,

My name is **Angelia** and I live in **District 7**, Maryland. I am testifying in support of SB 627 to repeal the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights (“LEOBR”) and create a new disciplinary process to hold officers accountable for misconduct. This bill is about racial justice and holding officers accountable for the violence, abuse, and trauma they inflict on the community, mostly Black and Brown residents.

As you know, Maryland was the first state to create this type of law, and Maryland’s LEOBR is considered to be the most extreme in the country. LEOBR protects officers from accountability by giving them special due process rights that go beyond what is required under the Constitution. For instance, there is no reason why complaints need to go through a hearing board process before officers can be disciplined. As a result of LEOBR’s extra rights, only a few officers receive any discipline at all. In the vast majority of incidents of violence and misconduct, the officer receives no discipline and is not held accountable. LEOBR also records to be hidden so that we don’t know who the officers are who have multiple complaints of police brutality. We as citizens can not even keep track of officers who pose a threat to our community.

I believe that officers should have the same labor rights and not be treated differently than any other state or local employee, especially since officers have so much power in the community and so obviously abusing that power in Maryland. They should not be given extra rights. The police should not be protected more than the people.

Maryland must also ensure that when LEOBR is repealed, local jurisdictions cannot just recreate LEOBR at the local level. That is why it is important that this bill prohibits local laws and collective bargaining agreements that conflict with the disciplinary process in the bill.

SB 627 is a necessary bill so that Maryland finally stops shielding officers from accountability. Now is the time for a full repeal of LEOBR. I urge a favorable vote on SB 627.

Sincerely,

**Angelia DiGuiseppe**

**(District 7) 3012 Westchester Ave Ellicott City MD, 21043**

**Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee  
February 9, 2021**

**HB 151– Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights – Repeal**

**FAVORABLE**

To Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Committee members,

My name is **Angelia DiGuiseppe]** and I live in **District 7**, Maryland. I am testifying in support of HB 151 to repeal the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights (“LEOBR”) and create a new disciplinary process to hold officers accountable for misconduct. This bill is about racial justice and holding officers accountable for the violence, abuse, and trauma they inflict on the community, mostly Black and Brown residents.

As you know, Maryland was the first state to create this type of law, and Maryland’s LEOBR is considered to be the most extreme in the country. LEOBR protects officers from accountability by giving them special due process rights that go beyond what is required under the Constitution. For instance, there is no reason why complaints need to go through a hearing board process before officers can be disciplined. As a result of LEOBR’s extra rights, only a few officers receive any discipline at all. In the vast majority of incidents of violence and misconduct, the officer receives no discipline and is not held accountable. LEOBR also records to be hidden so that we don’t know who the officers are who have multiple complaints of police brutality. We as citizens can not even keep track of officers who pose a threat to our community.

I believe that officers should have the same labor rights and not be treated differently than any other state or local employee, especially since officers have so much power in the community and so obviously abusing that power in Maryland. They should not be given extra rights. The police should not be protected more than the people.

Maryland must also ensure that when LEOBR is repealed, local jurisdictions cannot just recreate LEOBR at the local level. That is why it is important that this bill prohibits local laws and collective bargaining agreements that conflict with the disciplinary process in the bill.

HB 151 is a necessary bill so that Maryland finally stops shielding officers from accountability. Now is the time for a full repeal of LEOBR. I urge a favorable vote on HB 151.

Sincerely,

**Angelia DiGuiseppe**

**District 7, 3012 Westchester Ave, Ellicott City MD, 21043**