

I am writing to support SB0276, the bill before you now, that aims to repeal Hopkins' private police. As a Baltimore City resident and human being committed to abolition, divestment, and anti-racism, I believe any efforts to establish a private police force should be halted.

We are at a moment in time where we have the opportunity to find alternatives to policing, keeping our communities safe is not something a private police force would achieve; scientific and sociological studies have in fact proved the opposite, these forces put Black and Brown people in our communities in more danger. One only needs to look to the Morgan State campus and learn a deeply traumatic and devastating lesson from the murder of Tyrone West by campus police. The Baltimore community (including Hopkins students, staff, faculty, Baltimore residents and neighbors) has long stood in opposition to the Hopkins private police force and a repeal of the authority granted to Hopkins to establish this force should be heard and passed. It cannot be taken for granted that over 6,152 community members have time and again stated our opposition to the police force, yet the administration has continued to pursue this effort. We need help from our elected officials to fight them. We need you to repeal their authority to create the private police.

If Hopkins is truly committed to Baltimore and to repairing their reputation, rebuilding trust, and working towards reconciliation with a city they have so harmed, they need to implement and follow through on old and new commitments to the neighborhoods around their campuses, ones that offer gainful employment, community reinvestment funds, and building opportunity so that all of the circumstances that lead to higher crime rates are effectively fought against.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your discussion and response.