

Joseph R. Galarraga  
300 Woodbourne Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21212

January 19, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter should serve as written testimony in support of SB0276. The bill is summarized as follows: "Repealing all provisions relating to the establishment and maintenance of a police department at the Johns Hopkins University, including all applicable authorizations, powers, requirements, and prohibitions on the University, University police officers, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Department of Legislative Services; etc.". As a resident of Baltimore City, I do not believe that a private police force that serves the interests of a private institution – especially one as monolithic as Johns Hopkins University – is in the best interest of all Baltimoreans. Baltimore hosts an incredibly diverse and varied community, and a private police department designed to protect the interests of a small segment of Baltimore's population has the potential to create unequal enforcement of the law. Additionally, this private police force presents concern with regards to accountability, as they will be contracted by the university instead of the residents of Baltimore. In conclusion, I support SB0276, and believe that the Johns Hopkins University police force provisions should be repealed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.R. Galarraga', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph R. Galarraga