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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0627, Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal  
and Procedures for Discipline

2/4/2021

TO: Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Ayla Hurley

Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is Ayla Hurley, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0627, the repeal of the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights.

Maryland law enforcement officers should not be protected against consequences simply because they are law enforcement officers. If anything, they should be held to much more stringent rules of conduct than the average citizen. Law enforcement officers are meant to prevent violent crime, not perpetrate it, and if any are allowed to do so without repercussions, as the LEOBR grants them the ability to do, then those agents have failed in their duties and those "rights" are unjustly granted. Even a department chief who wants to hold their officers accountable is unable to do so due to the LEOBR. Repealing it is just one step towards rebuilding the respect and trust that law enforcement must re-earn in Maryland communities in 2021.

I urge you to support the repeal of the LEOBR and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct. This includes being able to hold officers accountable for their actions without such blatant protections against repercussions of violent behavior.