

January 19th, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.

Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

2 East, Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for SB0276

Committee Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Bomin Jeon and I am a resident of Reservoir Hill neighborhood in Baltimore city. I am writing to you in support of SB0276, to repeal Hopkins' private police.

As a former student and current employee of Maryland Institute College of Art, I am very aware and critical of the presence of private higher education institutions in the city. When the educational institutions prioritize "safety" of their campus and students by hiring more police force, they actually create racist and oppressive culture for the surrounding residents who do not have access to these institutions' offering. It is no secret that systematic racism against black and brown people exist throughout all sectors, but it is especially detrimental when it is done in the hands of excessive force. I have seen my black and brown friends be racially profiled and policed around JHU campus for simply existing. Also, the lack of residents' consent to heavy police presence around campus is an issue.

Adding more police presence around private institutions to guard their properties will create more hostility and division to the city. I support SB0276 to move away from the increasing in policing of community to rebuilding foundations and resources for the community that will keep us all safe.

Sincerely,
Bomin Jeon