

To Whom It May Concern:

As a doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University and a member of the Baltimore community, I unequivocally endorse Bill SB0276 to repeal the legislation enabling Johns Hopkins to establish its own private police force. Black students, faculty, and staff at Johns Hopkins have consistently expressed concerns about the ways armed police would threaten their own safety and exacerbate existing tensions between the university and the city of Baltimore. Campus police will not make the university or its surroundings safer but will continue its harmful legacy of prioritizing its own wealth and reputation over the needs of its Black members, patients, and neighbors.

Johns Hopkins has refused to reckon with the public outcry against policing extending from the Garland Hall Sit-In to the Black Lives Matter movement and has once again raised the fears of a small yet vocal minority of students, parents, and wealthy donors over its ethical obligations to Baltimore. The university has also showcased its willingness to use campus security to suppress political opposition to its policies and initiatives. Johns Hopkins does not need any more control over its students and employees or the city of Baltimore, let alone over the lives of marginalized individuals on and off campus.

The Maryland General Assembly can and should reject the efforts of Johns Hopkins to form its own private police force on behalf of the many stakeholders the university and state government have previously chosen to ignore.

Sincerely,

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