

January 18, 2021

Dear Maryland State Legislature,

Today, I am writing you in the support of the bills that will repeal the ability of Johns Hopkins University to establish a private police force. The bills are SB0276 and HB0336. It is concerning that Hopkins wants to establish an extra police force to patrol its campuses. Johns Hopkins has an endowment of over 6 billion dollars, but acts like a corporation, in asking Maryland taxpayers especially those in Baltimore City to help foot the bill for their private police and bear the brunt of it. Johns Hopkins is a place where this public money would be better used for education and support of the East Baltimore community in which they have disenfranchised since its founding. This police force would target those people that are living alongside of Johns Hopkins, which the majority are poor and black. Many students of color are opposed to this police force because it is another way to racially profile them and the communities that Hopkin's calls home. Over 100 faculty also have signed a letter to the administration opposing this police force. Their concern is that Baltimore's institutions especially the police are amid a credibility crisis. If the summer of 2021 and the peaceful protests against police brutality have taught us anything, it is that in cities like Baltimore, we do not need more police but more restorative practices, so we can truly say "Black Lives Matter" and mean it. Johns Hopkins already has an extensive public safety force like any university and should not be treated differently than other institutions. I demand that Johns Hopkins be unequivocally prohibited from establishing a police force now and in the future.

Sincerely,

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