

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SUPPORT of HB 188**  
(No-Knock Warrants – Elimination (Duncan’s Act))

Dear Committee Chair Clippinger and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jonathan Law and I am writing to you in support of House Bill 188 to repeal the allowance of no-knock warrants in Maryland.

On June 11, 2014, the police entered my Baltimore City home suddenly and without warning. They came in early in the morning, when I had still been in bed. They had their weapons out, were aggressive with me and my roommate, and threatened to shoot and kill my dog. They repeatedly asked how to get to other apartments from my home even though we were a single-apartment building. Ultimately, they realized they had the wrong address and left. When I followed up, the police said they had no record of the incident.

We were shaken by this incident, then angered when the police did not acknowledge it, but we were also lucky in that nobody was hurt. As we saw so starkly last year with the murder of Breonna Taylor, no-knock warrants can and do result in tragedy.

I am a resident of Baltimore City. I am a social worker and through my non-profit jobs over the past eight years, I have worked with many different sectors of the city, from older seniors to elementary school students. I have also been involved with my neighborhood association for almost ten years. A common thread is the almost everyday brutality of police authority. Even when the mistreatment is unintended, how traumatizing was it for one of my 17 year old youth clients to be put in handcuffs while at her job before the officer even correctly identified her? She sat for an hour in handcuffs until the officers realized they had the wrong person. Why do I have to walk away from the police breaking into my home and be happy because no one was shot? We, as a people, must have better ways.

I urge the House Judiciary Committee and the Maryland General Assembly to act on House Bill 188 and end the practice of no-knock warrants in Maryland completely.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Law  
District 40  
Baltimore, MD