

Dear Delegates Clippinger and Atterbeary and the Judiciary committee members,

I am a resident of District 23B and a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. I am testifying in support of bill HB0139 which sets statutory limits on Police Use of Force. I am a 37 year Maryland resident. I am a retired Prince George's County school teacher with 36 years of service and a member of Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church in Odenton.

As one of 9 states with no statutory language limiting police use of force, Maryland's police are only regulated by federal and local law. This means Maryland police have more freedom than most states to brutalize its citizens with impunity. Currently, Use of Force in Maryland is governed by two Supreme Court cases, *Graham v Connor* (1989) and *Tennessee v Garner* (1985). However, no state or federal law meets international standards for police use of force.

A meaningful police use of force statute needs to 1) make use of force acceptable only when "necessary" (rather than when "reasonable" as federal law states); 2) ban certain holds; 3) define "use of force" and delineate alternative actions; 4) limit on when officers can claim self-defense if their behavior incited the necessity to use force; 5) duty to de-escalate and to intervene with fellow officers; and 6) require police departments to enact policies to limit use of force against certain vulnerable people, including those who have mental/behavioral impairments and those who speak limited English. We are very pleased to see that this bill includes all of these components.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of HB0139.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lori Kronser  
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