

Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee
February 9, 2021

**HB 120 – Public Information Act – Personnel Records – Investigations of Law
Enforcement Officers (Anton’s Law)**

FAVORABLE

To Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Committee members,

My name is Anna Evans-Goldstein and I live in Baltimore Maryland. I am testifying in support of HB 120 (Anton’s Law).

Maryland fancies itself as a progressive and democratic state, however, the state of Maryland ranks among the least transparent states in regards to police misconduct complaints. Twenty-nine other states make disclosure of complaint files more accessible to the public. Even in so-called conservative states such as Alabama, Georgia, and Arizona, police disciplinary records are generally available to the public. It makes sense to keep certain aspects of public employees records confidential, such as health or personal information. However, when it comes to allegations of force, misconduct, and other disciplinary matters, the public has a right to know. We have seen time and again that officers with multiple disciplinary counts against them continue to serve, injuring the public they are sworn to protect. Passing Anton’s Law is a common sense measure that will put Maryland on an even ground with other states when it comes to transparency. In a time when police misconduct has been put on full display like it never was before, the public demands the transparency that has been long overdue.

Pass HB 120.

Sincerely,
Anna Evans-Goldstein