

February 9, 2021

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

House Bill 151 - Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal and Procedures for Discipline - FAVORABLE

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to urge you to repeal the Maryland Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR). Maryland residents need to know that police officers will be held accountable when they engage in misconduct. Misconduct among law enforcement personnel harms communities, particularly those which are racially & economically marginalized. And, it creates a general sense of skepticism & distrust between the public and law enforcement agencies.

LEOBR is an impediment to accountability & transparency because it provides officers who engage in misconduct with exceptionally broad protections which allow them to avoid meaningful discipline & accountability. LEOBR repeal is also a necessary step toward making sure that officers facing discipline do not get extra rights that are not afforded to other state government and civilian employees.

I fully support the recommendation proposed and voted on by The House Workgroup to Address Police Accountability in Maryland, in October 2020, to fully repeal the Maryland Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights and replace it with new accountability measures, as outlined by the working group.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Scott B. Cecil

City Councilmember

Mount Rainier, MD