

2/05/21

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your time. My name is Suzanne Doogan. I am an educator from District 43. My position on HB0151 to Repeal the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights is favorable. The Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights puts residents of Maryland, like myself and especially my Black and Brown neighbors and students, in danger by shielding officers who have repeatedly demonstrated irresponsible and/or violent behavior both on and off duty, and allowing these officers to continue as part of the police force.

Simply reforming the bill is not adequate. Citizens like myself and my neighbors need to have full access to information so that we can oversee the police departments that are intended to serve and protect us. It does not make sense for police departments to oversee themselves. Where I live in Baltimore City, none of the officers involved with the death of Tyrone West have been held accountable. For example, one officer involved, Officer Bernardez-Ruiz has been involved with multiple uses of excessive force, and still he continues to police in the City.

If anyone is worried about information on officers falling into the wrong hands, or officers being scrutinized, their anxieties are misplaced and misguided. Everyone else's public records are just that -- public. Why are police officers different from the rest of us? Why should officers have different privileges? The real worry when it comes to LEOBOR is that information is not shared and that there are deadly consequences. It should absolutely not be a worry that civilians somehow have access to *too much* information.

Please stand with citizens of Baltimore City and repeal LEOBOR.

Best,  
Suzanne Doogan