

Adrian Rakochi
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 151, Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal
Friday, February 5, 2021 TO: Chair Clippinger and the Judiciary House Committee
FROM: Adrian Rakochi

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Adrian Rakochi, I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland that you represent and a member of Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America. I am writing to ask you to support HB 151, Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal.

Baltimore residents have too long been terrorized by a police force that have acted, at times, with total lawlessness, and the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights has allowed this practice to continue. I was present at a Baltimore City Council hearing on September 16, 2019, regarding gag orders for settlements against the Baltimore City police, as a show of support for the victims, and I will never forget the stories I heard. An entire family, grandmother included, was pummeled by police looking for a suspect that was not anywhere to be found. The officer who was the perpetrator was allowed to remain on the force after the victim had collected her settlement and went on to commit more needless violence against innocent Baltimoreans. I have professional experience in the areas of mental health and research on cognition and there are real lasting harms being done to children and families who have had these violent encounters with police. Baltimore is a city filled with trauma and the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights, which has continued to protect violent officers allowing them to create more victims, only contributes to this. It is time to break this cycle of victimization.

I urge you to support HB 151 and protect the safety, well-being, and rights of Marylanders everywhere.

Thank you.

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