

SB 599 Favorable with Amendment
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SB 599 SUPPORT w/ AMENDMENT: Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 – Surplus Military Equipment

House Judiciary Committee

Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 1:30pm

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Ann Dalrymple, and I live in Owings Mills in Baltimore County, Maryland. I am active in the Social Justice Ministry of Sacred Heart Catholic Church Glyndon, and my testimony is in support of SB 599 with amendment

In 1997, the federal 1033 Program was established to allow transfer of certain surplus military equipment to local law enforcement agencies. In 2015, Obama created a list of surplus equipment that was prohibited from transfer, including armored vehicles. Trump put armored vehicles and other items back on the list of surplus items allowed to be transferred to local law enforcement. During the two years of demilitarization, a study shows no effect on violent crime or office safety. SB 599 purposefully permits armored vehicles to be received by local law enforcement in Maryland. And Maryland and Virginia have already received over \$5M worth of armored vehicles; more is overkill. Furthermore, it is known that the use of these vehicles during initially peaceful protests will increase the tension and increase the risk of violence.

I urge a favorable report on SB 599 with an amendment to add armored vehicles to the prohibited list.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ann Dalrymple, MD, MS