

I am Dr. Sophia Marjanovic, PhD in immunology and microbiology

I trained at NIH in Bethesda.

I am of the Oceti Sakowin tribe.

I am a survivor of domestic violence and police misconduct that lead me to lose my 28 month old breastfeeding son

In 2012, I was attacked holding my 10 day old newborn son.

I called the police.

This began the nightmare of dealing with domestic abusers on the police force coordinating with abusers to dominate and control survivors.

I lost custody of my son to our abuser.

Officer Freddie Charles, with a history of domestic violence, is in charge of the Supervised Visitation Unit of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Department.

He claimed he fears for his life around me because I video record all interactions and have gotten unethical people reprimanded.

In 2016, I got a provision in HB1016 for civilians to get outcomes of investigations of our complaints about police officers.

The way the bill was written leaves us unable to get the reports

My nightmare has continued since I last testified here:

Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Department asked me how much I was willing to pay to see my son.

Police are considered neutral witnesses in courts despite getting paid overtime to attend court hearings

I have suffered for years, even becoming completely debilitated from pain struggling to feel safe in my own body.

I eventually became homeless and enslaved in human trafficking as a result.

I have been in therapy for years trying to heal, but when the system is so unsafe, I need the system to be repaired to BE safe.

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40% of law enforcement are domestic abusers.

4 women and 4 children are killed every day in the US by domestic violence.

I fully support the repeal of the LEOBR. Since HB1016 in 2016 got implemented into law, I have been organizing for a civilian review board with subpoena power to be implemented in Montgomery County as the police have been making national headlines for killing, beating, and harassing my neighbors in the streets, especially mentally distressed Black and Brown people. Native Americans are killed by police at the highest rates in the USA, and as a Native American mother who has suffered disabling traumatic impacts of police misconduct from police in Maryland, I wonder, am I next in being killed by Maryland police?

My other demands to abolish the police and replace the police with safer systems are outlined in my written testimony that I have already submitted to you.

Social Workers, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, court clerks, etc. are part of a broken system systematically terrorizing the most marginalized people in Maryland. In fact, when I reported my son's disclosure of sexual abuse at his daycare in which his father had him, Ms. Brown of the Maryland Child Protective Service told me that she had taken my son, who was not even 3 years old yet, into a room by himself with her asking him direct questions. This is not the appropriate procedure to investigate child sexual abuse on children under 10 years old. When I told Ms. Brown this, she scoffed that I'm just going to have to get the law changed. That was back in 2015. It is now 2021. My son is now over 8.5 years old with no protection because you have not taken the protection of our children seriously.

I demand that you allow one party consent audio recording to truly allow for transparency and accountability in the state of Maryland in removing corruption from our public serving institutions.

I demand that you abolish the police.

This system is broken and cannot be reformed.

I demand that you appropriate funds to build safe houses for every 150 citizens for survivors of domestic violence to safely seek refuge.

I demand that you appropriate funds to build an office where only specialists in the dynamics of domestic violence intervene in domestic violence and help survivors.

Let's make sure those specialists don't have a history of domestic violence like 40% of law enforcement does.

I demand that instead of the police that you appropriate funds to send psychiatrists and psychologists to our systematically traumatized Native American, Black, Latinx, LGBTQ2S, disabled and poor communities.

I also demand improved accountability mechanisms for such psychiatrists and psychologist first responders.

I have successfully gotten an unethical psychologist determined a danger to the public here in the State of Maryland, so I know we need improved accountability for protecting the public from unethical people in positions of power in Maryland.

I demand that instead of the police that you appropriate funds to community based programs for trauma informed conflict resolution and restorative justice.

The United States was built on generations of traumatizing Native American, Black and Latinx people.

Let's work to heal instead of punish those of us who are systematically traumatized.