



February 5, 2021

Testimony on HB0151, *Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal*  
*Judiciary Committee*

Hearing Date: February 9, 2021

Organization: Sunrise Movement Baltimore

Person Submitting: Katherine McRury

Position: Favorable

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering my testimony today. My name is Katherine McRury, a resident of Baltimore, in the neighborhood of Canton. I am a member of Sunrise Movement Baltimore, a movement led by young people fighting against the climate crisis. This testimony represents my support for HB0151, the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal Act.

It is outrageous that police officers have additional, special rights and protections compared to other government employees. Given the almost daily stories of police brutality--pepper spraying children, shooting unarmed men in the back, breaking into the wrong house--overwhelmingly directed toward Black and Brown Americans, it strains belief that there is even a question of maintaining additional protections for police officers when it is clear that instead, communities need protections from police violence. Law enforcement is a serious task, but putting officers above the law in order to accomplish it is both incredibly illogical and increasingly deadly for abusively policed communities. If officers behave as they should, they should not need any special bill of rights to protect them. They must be held accountable for their actions just like any other government employee, and therefore the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBR) must be repealed.

Maryland's current LEOBR is one of the most extreme in the country, putting us out of step and at risk for continued violence. Repealing this law would give communities the power to hold their law enforcement officers accountable for misconduct, removing dangerous officers from the force and taking steps toward trust and safety. This action is widely popular and endorsed not only by Sunrise Movement Baltimore, but also by groups like the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability. We believe that this step is necessary to build safer, fairer communities, where people can go about their lives without fear of police misconduct. Removing this unnecessary and abuse-enabling law will bring Maryland one step closer to that reality.



We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Katherine McRury  
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Baltimore  
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