

February 10, 2021  
Zach Margulies  
Bill: HB0336  
POSITION: Favorable  
Maryland Legislative District: 45

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB0336**  
**Private Institutions of Higher Education - Police Departments - Repeal and Prohibition**

My name is Zach Margulies. I am a resident of Maryland's 45th district. **I submit this testimony in support of HB0336 which would repeal the bill to allow private institutions to establish police departments.**

Private institutions ought not have the authority to establish private police forces in the State of Maryland and specifically Baltimore City. When we all discuss this bill, we are discussing Johns Hopkins University (JHU) though we may not be naming it directly. This bill will allow JHU to establish an armed private police force to reinforce policing efforts in Baltimore. I believe the bill to establish the right to private institutions was a mistake and was fraught with controversy from the outset. I believe that allowing a private police force to be established will exacerbate police brutality in the city and will only negatively affect public health in Baltimore as well as the rest of the state. JHU itself decided to halt its very own arming of private police as a response to this past Summer's historic police violence protests. This is an overt acknowledgement that more police and more guns will only hurt Marylanders, and armed police is NOT the answer(backed up by JHU themselves!). Please choose to stand on the right side of history. **I urge you all to Vote YES on HB0336 to repeal the establishment of police department for private institutions.**