



Anton's Law / HB120
Official Testimony
Position: **FAVORABLE**

Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the Political Director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Our union represents 10,000 hospital and Long-Term Care facility workers across Maryland, and we are the largest healthcare workers union in the United States. We support Anton's law and strongly urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

In September of 2018, a 19-year-old boy named Anton Black was killed because of an altercation where a police officer in Greensboro, Maryland chased him, tased him, tackled him, and cuffed him – leading to Anton's sudden, fatal cardiac arrest after being in police custody. What makes this situation even worse is that the Police Officer responsible for Anton's death, Thomas Webster IV, was hired as an officer in Maryland after he had been fired as an officer in Delaware due to a substantiated use of force lawsuit brought against him by an African American civilian.

We need more transparency on officer involved brutality cases and deaths of civilians. Anton's law will require law enforcement agencies to make prior complaints against an officer more easily accessible to families of the victims. Anton Black's family had to wait more than four months to receive any information from law enforcement, and that is absolutely unacceptable. 1199SEIU respectfully and strongly asks this Committee to issue a favorable report on HB120.

Sincerely,
Ricarra Jones
1199SEIU Political Director
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