

My name is Ren DeBrosse and I am a first year medical student at Johns Hopkins University writing in favor of HB0151 to repeal LEOBR. I am also a resident of District 46 and I worked for a Johns Hopkins affiliate on the East Baltimore medical campus for two years prior to matriculating in the School of Medicine. I love this city so much that I decided to spend at least six years of my life here for my scientific and medical training. My relationship with the Middle East community has also grown in that time, as I have done work with the community and consider them family.

When I think about the rigor with which the profession of medicine is held to the highest standards to ensure patients' safety, I wonder at how the harm of innocent civilians can be tolerated and not examined by a transparent process for the police force. Everyone who works to keep people healthy and safe should have their actions examined and be brought to justice if necessary, should the unthinkable happen and harm come to a member of our community.

Between my personal experience and listening to those who have lived in Baltimore City for much longer, I believe that LEOBR does not actually protect the community and only serves to shield officers from being held accountable. While I believe that most police officers are serving their community with the goal of keeping every person safe, when I hear stories like that of Tyrone West's murder at the hands of the Baltimore Police I wonder whether the mechanisms in place actually ensure that happens are efficacious. Since his death, Tyrone's family have tried tirelessly to get justice for their loved one while none of the officers who took his life were held accountable. The only thing that I could imagine being worse than tragically losing a family member would be to see the people responsible for that family member's death continue to carry the weapon that took them from this earthly existence.

LEOBR stands in the face of a year that has nationally displayed the need for increased transparency with police forces and Baltimore City residents have been demanding this for years. I stand with HB0151 to repeal LEOBR and I hope you will do the same.