

**Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee  
February 9, 2021**

**HB 187 Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Body Worn Cameras**

**FAVORABLE**

To Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, and members of the Committee,

My name is Beverly John. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 187 Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Body Worn Cameras. It is reported that 90% of complaints against officers made by the public are not sustained. However, there is other data that during judicial proceedings 80% of exonerees are Black, with officer misconduct as the leading reason for exoneration. It would appear that a body worn camera would provide additional insight into encounters that would support an officer’s narrative reporting of the incident. Officers should be mandated to wear and operate the devices from the beginning of an encounter until the end. The tapes should be downloaded and sent to the State’s Attorney

As you are aware, there is national (and international) attention on police reform, with a very recent focus on nationalist and terrorist influences within police departments. Now, more than ever, we (your constituents) need your support in keeping us safe. Transparency is the key. We have one more time to pass legislation that will help rid our community of oppressive and unscrupulous individuals with racists and bigoted intentions. I implore you to support your constituents.

We need this legislation, in addition to the repeal of the Law Enforcement Officer’s Bill of Rights (HB151) and Use of Force (HB0139) and Personnel Records Investigation (HB 120) legislation, to begin to truly make meaningful and real change to identify and hold individuals accountable for the terror and trauma they inflict on communities.

Thank you.  
Beverly John  
Concerned Citizen