

HB 0151 Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal

As a concerned citizen of Baltimore and member of the West Coalition, I am writing to urge this committee to pass HB0151 and repeal the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights. Through my experience with the West Coalition, I have seen time and again the impact of police brutality of the lives of my friends and neighbors in Baltimore and across the country. The police killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd came to the forefront nationally this past year, however, in Baltimore, we still call out for accountability for Tyrone West, Freddie Gray, Anthony Anderson, Keith Davis Jr., and so many others. Too many others.

The time for meaningful police reform is now. Police officers do not need additional protections above and beyond those granted to other State employees. The current protections in place for State employees are enough. Repealing LEOBR is an important step toward accountability, transparency, and building public trust. It is a step toward breaking down the blue wall of silence and us vs. them mentality so apparent in our police force.

I hope that you will stand with us and use your votes and your power to move us toward a world without police brutality. There are many important bills before this legislature this year to take steps in that direction, and this is one of them. I urge you to vote yes and repeal the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights. Thank you for your time and consideration.