

February 23, 2021

Regina Gail Malloy

Re: Oppose – HB 336 – Private Institutions of Higher Education – Police Departments – Repeal and Prohibition

Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice-Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I work at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in East Baltimore. I live in downtown Baltimore just three blocks away from Lexington Market. I urge this Committee to oppose House Bill 336 that would repeal the Johns Hopkins Police Department.

As a single woman who lives under the threat of crime everyday living in Baltimore City and working in East Baltimore, I must voice my strong opposition to this bill that would repeal the Johns Hopkins Police Department.

I have witnessed first-hand how community policing can be done right. I live it every day. My home is within the jurisdiction of the University of Maryland Baltimore Police Department. In 2018, I attended their 6-week community engagement academy. Participating in that academy completely changed the way I saw the police. Since that time, I have become an advocate for community policing. Because I know that policing can be done right. I have seen it. I live it. And I will continue to advocate for it.

Crime in East Baltimore is a real concern. When leaving the East Baltimore campus in the evenings, I am hyper-vigilant due to regular robberies that occur. I have spoken with many colleagues about this concern and they concur that this is a real problem that requires a comprehensive solution.

To repeal the JHPD before it's allowed to even form is not just a mistake, it is a step backwards in addressing crime in East Baltimore. Opponents of the police department argue that we do not need more police, however I would argue that we need the right police. Allow Johns Hopkins the opportunity to develop a police department that works for our whole community.

I urge this committee to oppose HB 336 and issue an unfavorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regina Gail Malloy