

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am a Maryland resident and I strongly urge committee members to support HB0336 (Private Institutions of Higher Education - Police Departments - Repeal and Prohibition), which will repeal all provisions of law relating to the establishment and maintenance of a Johns Hopkins University police department. Policing is antithetical to community safety and it's been proven time and time again that reform does not diminish the police's capacity for violence or increase accountability. Therefore, any funds that could be used to create a private university police force are better off in the hands of the communities affected by said police force, such as the residents of the Middle East, a community that is already heavily policed. We have seen the harm university policing has caused in the death of Tyrone West, who was murdered by a Morgan State officer in 2013. As stated previously, what little reforms that have been applied to policing have been ineffectual at best and harmful at worst. Please join the Baltimore and Johns Hopkins communities in supporting HB0336 and preventing the creation of yet another unaccountable police force.

Sincerely,
Zach Styles
MD Legislative District 15