

**Takoma Park Presbyterian Church  
310 Tulip Avenue  
Takoma Park, Md 20912**

February 25, 2022

**House Judiciary Committee  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

*HB 1012 Police Immunity and Accountability Act*

***Presbyterians for Police Transformation  
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (TPPC)  
Takoma Park, Md 20912***

**Presbyterians for Police Transformation is pleased to support HB 1012 Police Immunity and Accountability Act** sponsored by Delegate Wilkins. This bill will bring greater accountability for police misconduct that is found to have violated a person's constitutional rights.

TPPC has a Racial Mindfulness Ministry and over a year ago we formed Presbyterians for Police Transformation to study and advocate for changes in policing that will reduce violent engagement between police and members of the public, particularly racial minorities. These are our neighbors, friends and congregants.

Maryland is finally addressing the level of protection that has been granted to police who commit serious misconduct and we supported and are gratified by the repeal of the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights last Session. HB 1012 is a needed next step to eliminate the current provision of qualified immunity to police, and to ensure that it is not only Maryland taxpayers who pay the bill when findings are made of unconstitutional behavior. We know that this does not typify most police-public interactions but in the types of egregious events that we know occur, the officers involved need financial sanctions and exposure to liability that will effectively deter further behavior by themselves and others. Immunity from liability does not serve justice. A central mission of our church is to promote equality and social justice and for this reason we are urging adoption of this measure

**Presbyterians for Police Transformation urge passage of HB 1012.**