

Hello my name is Angelia DiGuseppe and I am representing progressive Maryland and Baltimore County's PAB group. I have no personal stories of police misconduct, and yet the topic of distrusting the police has come up with my neighbors and at church. We have a general distrust of police in Maryland that can no longer be ignored.

I did some research on police departments for the counties that you all represent and only Baltimore city and PG county had any information on how much tax payers are spending on complaint settlements. Only 3 more counties had accessible data on PD wide misconduct and use of force. This hiding of information, this lack of transparency is only hurting police departments capabilities to protect our communities.

I have heard the argument that while this bill is great it is just too expensive and that is simply untrue. The estimated total, not yearly, but total, cost of outfitting all police with body cams, archiving the footage and getting software so citizens can see the footage is a little over \$32 million. A lot of money. But we have already committed to spending most of it. The Police Accountability Act in 2021 guaranteed that we are already paying for all uniformed officers to get body cams and it will be a waste of taxpayer money if we do not develop the infrastructure for that footage to be accessed and used. Along with that, while I could not find how much each county spends on misconduct settlements, I did find a few numbers. Between 2014 and 2020 Baltimore City paid over 12 million in settlements. From 2012 -2014 PG paid an average of 4million a year. That's two countries spending half the cost of implementing a comprehensive body cam program. A program that would eventually lead to reducing misconduct settlements.

Financially this bill makes sense. Morally this bill makes sense. And even if you believe that police misconduct is not as prevalent as the media makes it out to be, this bill makes sense, because the footage will be your proof.

I hope you all will do the right thing, the right thing for so many reasons, and vote to pass HB0162. Thank you for your time and please remember your voters are watching.