

Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee

March 1, 2022

HB [991](#) – Baltimore City - Civilian Review Board

FAVORABLE

Good afternoon,

My name is Anna Evans-Goldstein, a resident of Baltimore City. I am in support of HB 991 because Baltimore city must increase local control of our Police Department in order to improve public safety and regain its citizens' trust.

Baltimore City residents have known for decades what public reviews such as the GTTF report detailed - that the Baltimore City Police Department has been out of control and riled with corruption. The Civilian Review Board was created with the support of the state legislature, and it must continue to operate rather than see its powers diminished. It is essential that cities maintain healthy civilian review boards, as it is in the best interests of regular citizens that the police powers of the government be overseen.

I support the increased strength of SB 441 in widening the investigative reach with necessary funding and appropriate staffing, and in creating independent counsel that removes any conflict of interest from using the same city solicitor's office that is used to defend BPD. As was made clear in the GTTF report both of these aspects will remove any issues that inherently cut off the CRB's ability to do the job it was created to do.

SB 441 is fundamental to the city's broader efforts for increased transparency, accountability, and public safety, and I urge for a favorable report on HB 991.

Thank you,

Anna Evans-Goldstein