

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Rebecca Hazany, and I am a resident of District 40. I am writing testimony upon hearing from The Campaign for Justice, Safety and Jobs as well as the groups Organizing Black and Showing Up For Racial Justice. **I am testifying in support of SB 758 to Amend Baltimore City's Charter for Local Control of Police.**

As a city resident, it is extremely disheartening to hear that after 82% of us voted in favor of Question H in November, there are additional bureaucratic hurdles that could delay or prevent Baltimore from regaining local control of the police department. I feel that it is unjust and corrupt for state control to continue, especially given that Baltimore City is one of only two localities in the entire country with limited control over its own police department.

I feel strongly that we need increased oversight and accountability of the BPD. I have lived in Baltimore for 12 years and have worked as a program coordinator and writing tutor for the Goucher Prison Education Partnership as well as teaching ESOL and after school programs in Baltimore City Schools. It is abundantly clear that the BPD is a corrupt agency that disproportionately seeks to punish and brutalize marginalized communities including those who are Black, People of Color, immigrants, poor, disabled, and /or transgender individuals. I am a feminine-presenting white woman from the Philly suburbs and I have never, not once, been stopped or questioned by the police. This cannot be said for my friends, family, neighbors, former students, coworkers, and other community members in the groups mentioned above, many of whom live similar lifestyles to my own. The impact of this discriminatory policing is brutal and unjust and can have lasting effects on a person's life, if they survive their encounter with the police.

Further delay of local control is unacceptable. **Please advocate for [SB758/HB853](#) in the General Assembly, the corrective legislation that would immediately restore local control of the Baltimore Police Department to Baltimore City on June 1, 2023.**

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hazany
District 40
2924 Huntingdon Ave. Baltimore MD 21211