



UNFAVORABLE Testimony of SB 752
Police Discipline - Order to Show Cause

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 14, 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 120,000 Black and Latino immigrants and working families. Our mission is to create a more just society by building power and improving the quality of life in working-class and immigrant communities. We envision a future where our members stand in their own power, our families live free from discrimination and fear, and our diverse communities thrive as we work with our partners to achieve full human rights for all.

CASA strongly urges an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 752. In 2021, the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability (MCJPA), this committee, and the General Assembly worked tirelessly to bring justice to families and communities that have been egregiously wronged by our policing system by enacting landmark police accountability measures with the passage of the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021- Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBR)- Repeal and Procedures for Discipline. This legislation was brought forth by the movement for police accountability and reform spurred by the 2018 death of Anton Black, a 19-year-old Black teen who died in police custody after being restrained by three Greensboro police officers in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He was one of 31 people who died that year through the actions of police, according to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.¹

Black and Latino communities have been and continue to be disproportionately affected by police violence. Data from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention showcase the disparity that Black Marylanders face in their interaction with police, especially in deaths involving law enforcement officers. Our communities have lacked the necessary tools they need to keep individuals in positions of authority accountable, but recent policy changes have provided our communities with these tools to ensure that justice and accountability are taking place. However, these systems and tools have not been in place long enough for our communities to see change. Instead, there are policies that seek to undo the efforts of the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021. SB 752 brings back yet another feature of the LEOBR, allowing police officers to interrupt disciplinary proceedings against them by going to court to argue that

¹ <http://goccp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/Deaths-Involving-a-Law-Enforcement-Officer-2018.pdf>

their procedural rights have been violated. This is unnecessary as there is nothing hindering them from appealing their discipline to the Circuit Court.

CASA, as a member of the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability, respectfully requests that the committee offer an unfavorable report on SB 752.