



TESTIMONY TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB 885 – Public Safety – Police Accountability – Investigation Records Relating to Unfounded and Exonerated Complaints

POSITION: Oppose

BY: Linda Kohn, President

DATE: February 25, 2025

The League of Women Voters supports a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, and transparent in its policing practices. Moreover, policing practices should provide police accountability via independent citizen oversight of law enforcement and publicly available data on officer conduct.

HB 885 seeks to remove all investigative records related to a complaint of misconduct by a police officer from that individual's personnel record three years after an Administrative Charging Committee issues a finding of unfounded or exonerated. A practice such as this may make it difficult if not impossible not only to discern patterns of police conduct but also to identify trends in the disciplinary process of police officers which the Police Accountability Boards are mandated to do under the [Maryland Police Accountability Act \(MPAA\) of 2021](#).

We urge an unfavorable report on HB 885.