

I am testifying in favor of SB364: Baltimore City – Civil Claims Against Law Enforcement Officers of an Institution of Higher Education – Prohibition Against Nondisclosure Provision 4 in Settlement Agreement

A non-disclosure agreement should not be used as a settlement of misconduct claims against law enforcement officers. There however have been notable cases that this has happened, silencing the voices of those who have been victimized by law enforcement misconduct, such as the families of Tyrone West and Ashley Overby. Although the policy has been removed to prohibit this action with City and State law enforcement agencies, private institutions have exempt from the application of prohibited use of non-disclosure. By having SB364 enacted into law, all law enforcement agencies, whether they city, state, or private, will be under the same policy, allowing for transparency across all entities of law enforcement.

Thank you for introducing this bill. It is my hope, as well as those who were impacted by the past policy of confidentiality/non-disclosure will see this bill become the law in Baltimore City, giving space for more transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,

Charlene Rock-Foster
Baltimore City Resident