

January 19, 2021

Testimony SUPPORTING SB0178

Dear members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am submitting this testimony to urge you to SUPPORT SB0178, Public Information Act - Personnel Records - Investigations of Law Enforcement Officers (Anton's Law).

It disgusts me that it took a personal intervention from Governor Larry Hogan for Anton Black's family to find out the truth of their son's brutal murder at the hands of police. The ability for Maryland's police departments to hide evidence, investigatory files, and prior complaints against officers who have committed violent acts is what keeps killer cops on the streets, free to repeat their atrocities with impunity. Those who enforce the law shouldn't be above it; when they murder, they should be put under the same scrutiny as an ordinary citizen accused of murder, if not more, given their access to deadly weapons.

When will human life--Black life, particularly--be held in higher regard than the privileges police claim they're entitled to? For families and communities traumatized by the untimely deaths of their loved ones, transparency is the least they are owed. This bill won't repair the harm already done, but it will lift the veil of secrecy and obfuscation that makes justice impossible. Therefore, I hope you will vote in favor of Anton's Law.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely,

Emile Feldenzer