

HB0336 Private Institutions of Higher Education - Police Departments - Repeal and Prohibition

Stance: Support

Testimony: My name is Adiena C. Britt and I reside in the 45th Legislative District of Baltimore City. I am writing to offer my support for HB0336 as a full Repeal and prohibition of the future forming of the JHU Private Police Department. As someone who has been engaged in, and witnessed several cases of peaceful civil actions to protest various causes in and around the Johns Hopkins University Campus, I can attest to the overreach and abuses of this private police force. This force is not only redundant within City Limits, but is also rife with “bad apples” that move from being employed by the BCPD onto this force since it’s considered a more cushy and profitable position without all of the potential risk of being a BCPD officer.

I personally know individuals who were assaulted, abused, and placed under false arrest by members of this force, only to be handed over to BCPD. The JHU private police seem to work in conjunction with BCPD, therefore shows and proves the redundancy of such an entity to exist. The most egregious part of this is that members of this force are beyond the reproach of citizens as the current set up denies citizens from having a means to report misconduct. Should any person attempt to report them to the University, it seems to fall on deaf ears. No one in any position of authority at JHU seems willing to hold any of these officers accountable which opens the door wide for abuses and misconduct. There appears to be no oversight of this entity, and the allowance of this police force should be repealed and disallowed sooner rather than later. Please allow this bill to be presented to the full Senate and House and passed into Law.

Thank you.

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