



## **Letter of Support for JHU Police Force Repeal Bills HB336/HB1284**

In 2019 LBS worked with many other organizations and community groups to oppose the authorization of a JHU private police force. The continued advocacy for law enforcement centric approaches to public safety contradicts the decades of evidence that indicate that it is ineffective. Over the past 30 years cities have invested larger percentages of their general funds to law enforcement and according to a 2017 report entitled “Freedom to Thrive: Reimagining Safety & Security in Our Communities” this increase in investment in law enforcement does not correlate to improvements in public safety. The significant amount of resources that have been invested in law enforcement greatly exceeds the amount of resources that have been invested in alternative approaches to community safety. The establishment of the JHU police force would be another step in the direction of failed public safety policy.

Additionally, allowing the establishment of the JHU police force would set a precedent for private institutions to establish police agencies that are not accountable to the community. The 2016 DOJ report on the Baltimore city police department that exposed the misconduct and abuses of the department primarily toward Black residents and the disclosures of the criminal activities of the Gun Trace Task Force provide ample evidence of the culture of law enforcement that does harm to Black communities in Maryland. To add an additional police agency in an environment that has not adequately addressed police violence, especially when there continues to be a fight for meaningful mechanisms for community oversight is not in the public interest.

For these reasons, LBS supports the repeal of the JHU private police force. 25 W. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 • [www.lbsbaltimore.com](http://www.lbsbaltimore.com) • (410) 374-7683