

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am submitting this testimony as a part of Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. I am also a longtime member of Baltimore's vibrant theatre community, and the Artistic Director at the Fells Point Corner Theatre. I am **testifying in support of HB 336, Johns Hopkins University — Police Department — Repeal.**



When our communities are over-policed, it draws stark borders between who may move freely and who is targeted. A private JHU police force is not supported by students, staff, or community members in surrounding neighborhoods, because we know that it will expand and empower a violent system that already targets and disproportionately harms immigrants, people of color, gender and sexual minorities, the homeless, the disabled and neuro-atypical, and anyone else who doesn't fit in. In a poll filled out by more than a third of undergraduates, fully 75% were opposed. Over 100 faculty members have come out against it, and over 6,000 people from the school and nearby neighborhoods have signed a petition in opposition. A month-long sit-in against the plan drew broad participation and formal support from the school's own Student Government Association. How can this plan carry forward with any legitimacy, when those affected are so unified in their rejection of it?

Among our members and our friends, we have people who have been baselessly harassed and attacked on their own blocks by existing Hopkins security, well outside of the Hopkins campuses and while in no way posing any disturbance or threat. We also have people who are passionately opposed because of their own knowledge of the brutality of the existing police forces in Baltimore, of the ways these forces move around like predator priests being assigned new parishes, and of the ways that JHU President Ron Daniels and his backers disdain our voices and safety already. The sit-in itself was attacked by a white supremacist teacher and Hopkins security failed to intervene, as outlined in the damning fact-finding report commissioned afterwards by the university (<https://facultyassembly.jhu.edu/files/2019/12/Homewood-Faculty-Assembly-Fact-Finding-Committee-Report.pdf>, page 29), drawing further grave concerns about the idea that Hopkins needs more security to care for its students and community.

For an account in favor of this legislation from a very different perspective, read the words of Baltimore Police Department veteran Larry Smith, who lays out the case against the specific officers already involved with Hopkins security, with the process that got us here, and with similar models across the country and locally that have caused deaths rather than preventing them: <https://theappeal.org/johns-hopkins-universitys-private-police-force-will-bring-more-cops-to-an-overpoliced-baltimore/>

It is for these reasons that a private JHU police force does not make me feel safer and I do not want such a force funded in my community. And it is for these reasons that I also ask you to **support HB 336 and vote to repeal the Johns Hopkins University private police force.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Barbara Hauck (she/her)
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Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore