



February 10, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.

Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

RE: SUPPORT of House Bill 336

(Private Institutions of Higher Education - Police Departments - Repeal and Prohibition)

Dear Committee Chair Clippinger and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

We at the Baltimore Asian Resistance in Solidarity (BARS) are writing to you in support of HB0336, to repeal the Johns Hopkins University police department and prohibit private institutions of higher learning from establishing such forces in the future. We believe the Maryland General Assembly should act swiftly to bring this legislation to a vote and to repeal the establishment and maintenance of a Johns Hopkins University police department, including all applicable authorizations, powers, requirements, and prohibitions on the University, University police officers, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Department of Legislative Services.

Formed in response to police brutality against Michael Brown and Freddie Gray, Baltimore Asian Resistance in Solidarity (BARS) brings together Asians and Pacific Islanders of all backgrounds in Baltimore to work in solidarity with our neighbors and the communities we share: Black, Indigenous, all people of color, workers, LGBTQIA+, women, disabled folks, incarcerated people, immigrants and refugees. We also represent an essential sub-population of the Johns Hopkins University community; justice-oriented Asian and Pacific Islander alum, students, staff, and faculty. However, our members, such as our South Asian members, have also been unfairly targeted by law enforcement in the name of anti-terrorism initiatives since 9/11. Because our liberation is tied together, we cannot support the creation of a private police force to further endanger and criminalize our Black and Brown neighbors, friends, and colleagues. **It is our obligation to support HB 336 and the repeal of the Johns Hopkins University police force and prohibition of future attempts.**

Sincerely,

Baltimore Asian Resistance in Solidarity