

February 4, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you in support of HB-139 Use of Force. Currently, the State of Maryland has no statewide use of force policy. This means that there is little to no professional guidance on de-escalation, exhausting all other methods before the use of force, and no consequences nor investigation for the use of a firearm.

Further, without State statutes, each jurisdiction can set their own standards. This is confusing. Especially when officers are faced with crossing into neighboring jurisdictions to do their jobs.

I ask that you support HB-139 Use of Force. A state-wide standard must be set; police officers deserve training!!

Sincerely,

Jane Powell
Hagerstown, MD