

Kate Drabinski
Principal Lecturer, Gender, Women's, + Sexuality Studies at UMBC
HB0336
Maryland Legislative District 43
SUPPORT

I am writing to express my support for this bill to overturn the creation of a private police force for Johns Hopkins University. I live in the district with the Homewood campus, and I receive medical care at the main hospital campus. I also do significant teaching and research in the area of policing and incarceration. I am testifying, then, both as someone with a scholarly and practical perspective on the issue.

From a scholarly perspective, I understand that policing is often the first response to social problems and the violence that comes from those. It makes sense in a world where our understanding of justice is limited to policing and incarceration. This is about a lack of imagination. We already know that more police do not make us safer. We have so many layers of policing, especially in the neighborhoods around Hopkins, and safety is still an issue. Adding another layer isn't the answer. What we do know is that another layer of police will make many community members actively less safe—our Black and brown neighbors who will bear the brunt and danger of this overpolicing.

From a personal perspective, I see the layers of “security” we already have every day. I will not feel or be safer by adding more.

I strongly encourage passage of this bill. Let's not let our lack of imagination force us to fall back on worn solutions that solve nothing. I am opposed to a private police force in my neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Drabinski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kate Drabinski