

**Testimony for the House and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 19, 2021**

**Private Institutions of Higher Education - Police Departments - Repeal and Prohibition**

**House Bill 1284 (HB1284) and House Bill 0336 (HB0336)**

**SUPPORT**

As a concerned resident of Baltimore City (Maryland District 45) and faculty member of The Johns Hopkins University (JHU) School of Medicine, Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, I am in support of House Bill 1284 (HB1284) and House Bill 0336 (HB0336), which would revoke completely JHU's vested legal authority to create its own armed patrol with no public accountability.

This legislation represents an opportunity to prevent the racialized trauma inherent in American policing and makes space to re-imagine community safety. Hopkins campus policing could endanger Black lives, eroding community trust in the university and propelling an agenda of gentrification. As the 2016 DOJ report showed, BCPD engages in racially discriminatory practices.<sup>1</sup> There is no evidence and no guarantee that a JHU private police force would be any less so. Research has shown that increased police presence and subsequent policing leads to increased anxiety and reported trauma.<sup>2</sup> As a result, Bills HB1284 and HB0336, will protect the health and lives of Black and Brown JHU students, faculty, and staff and local community members who would be at disproportionately increased risk of a JHU armed police.

Multiple neighborhood associations near the JHU Homewood campus, including the Abell Improvement Association, Greater Remington Improvement Association and Harwood Community Association, have opposed the proposed Hopkins police force. The East Baltimore campus, where Hopkins police would initially patrol, has also seen organized resistance by surrounding neighborhoods like Douglass Homes. Pushing past this strong community opposition will only further alienate those living around Hopkins' campuses.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge you to support HB1284 and HB0336.

Sincerely,



Dr Graham Mooney, PhD

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Justice, *Investigation of the Baltimore City Police Department*, August 10, 2016. <https://www.justice.gov/crt/file/883296/download>, Sec. B2, accessed 3/18/18

<sup>2</sup> Amanda Geller, Jeffrey Fagan, Tom Tyler, Bruce G. Link, "Aggressive Policing and the Mental Health of Young Urban Men", *American Journal of Public Health* 104, no. 12 (December 1, 2014): pp. 2321-2327.

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Appendix 1: Total crimes reported in JHU Homewood campus,  
2013-17

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Johns Hopkins Homewood	6	8	8	8	5

Source: