

Testimony SUPPORTING HB336/HB1084

Elaine Millas on behalf of [Hinenu: The Baltimore Justice Shtiebl](#)

Dear Chair Clippinger and Vice Chair Atterbeary,

Good afternoon. I am Elaine Millas, a resident of Baltimore City District 43, and I am a strong supporter of HB336/HB1084. I am here representing my synagogue, Hinenu, which has more than 200 members and meets across the street from the Hopkins Homewood Campus. I live in Charles Village, and approximately a third of our member households are in the neighborhoods surrounding the Hopkins Homewood Campus.

We are a Jewish community that includes Black people and people of color, queer and trans people, and disabled folks. Just over a month ago, we watched as a white nationalist mob wrought havoc at the United States Capitol while police stood by. Not only do we believe that police do not keep us safe in moments of crisis, but we know that our most marginalized members will be the targets of police violence. This is why we have consistently rejected offers of police “protection” and instead sought safety and solidarity through relationships with our interfaith neighbors.

We believe that everyone in Baltimore deserves safety from all forms of violence. We believe that the Hopkins Police Department is not a public safety effort, but rather an attempt to build even higher walls around a powerful institution and exert carceral control over our neighbors. We have no interest in being part of this fortress, for it would endanger us and alienate us from the neighbors we love and who keep us safe. Our community urges a favorable report from the committee. Thank you.