

Testimony SUPPORTING HB0336

February 10, 2021

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dr. Andrea Fraser and I am a resident of Baltimore City in District 43 and a strong supporter of HB0336.

My family has lived in Baltimore City and District 43 for generations. As a Hopkins student and Abell resident, I share the experience of having been baselessly harassed and attacked in my own neighborhood by existing Hopkins security, well outside of the Hopkins campuses and while in no way posing any disturbance or threat. My Grandmothers walked to Morgan State college to obtain degrees in home economics before World War 2 and became Baltimore City School teachers. Policing by private institutions, while we are still repairing harms from my grandmother's era and beyond, only incites further division and disparity.

This City and State delegation need to support this bill for people like me and those that have been murdered and abused by school and police officers. The murder of Tyrone West by Morgan State Police is just one example. The ways that JHU President Ron Daniels and his backers disdain our voices and safety already should show the danger we are already in. Protest due to lack of engagement by JHU and the legislature were attacked by a white supremacist teacher and Hopkins security failed to intervene, as outlined in the damning fact-finding report commissioned afterwards by the university (<https://facultyassembly.jhu.edu/files/2019/12/Homewood-Faculty-Assembly-Fact-Finding-Committee-Report.pdf>, page 29), drawing further grave concerns about the idea that Hopkins needs more security to care for its students and community.

For an account in favor of this legislation from a very different perspective, read the words of Baltimore Police Department veteran Larry Smith, who lays out the case against the specific officers already involved with Hopkins security, with the process that got us here, and with similar models across the country and locally that have caused deaths rather than preventing them: <https://theappeal.org/johns-hopkins-universitys-private-police-force-will-bring-more-cops-to-an-overpoliced-baltimore/>

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Fraser, E.I.T.
Civil Engineer
Public and Environmental Health Practitioner