

I am writing in support of HB0336. I am a 16-year resident of Baltimore City who moved here in 2004 to attend Johns Hopkins University. I do not support a Hopkins private police force. As a student, I never felt JHU acted in the best interest of either student or community well-being. We see this played out all over Baltimore, from gentrification of low-income neighborhoods to the present disregard for public health, pushing in-person learning during a pandemic despite evidence that this carries a consequence of elevated COVID transmission to the greater community.

Baltimore City residents already suffer from its lack of local control of the Baltimore Police Department, which has led to profound corruption and violence in the city, disproportionately experienced by Black residents and other communities of color. We do not need a second, compounding issue of a privatized police force controlled by an institution that has a history of shirking its responsibility to city residents. Authorizing Hopkins to create a private police force was a regressive step that moved us away from the goal of a more peaceful, prosperous, and equitable city. HB0336 is an opportunity to undo this grave mistake and invest in Baltimore's future.

Thank you,

Alison Moss