

**Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 9, 2021**

**HB 139 – Law Enforcement Officers -- Use of Force**

**FAVORABLE**

To Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Committee members,

My name is Anna Evans-Goldstein and I live in Baltimore, Maryland. I'm formally submitting my written testimony in support of HB 139 on Use of Force.

Maryland is one of only nine states that does not have statutory limits on use of excessive force. If police officers' are meant to protect lives they must respond to incidents in ways that protect human life. That one of the wealthiest states in the nation does not have guidance or accountability on how officers use force is atrocious and must be remedied immediately. As we've seen in Baltimore over and over, without proper forms of accountability police officers will continue to use excessive force. It is beyond time to hold our police force accountable when they use unlawful force and ensure they protect human life.

This is long overdue. I urge a favorable vote on HB 139.

Sincerely,  
Anna Evans-Goldstein