

Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee

February 9, 2021

HB 671 – Public Information Act – Personnel and Investigatory Records – Complaints Against Police Officers

UNFAVORABLE

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

My name is Charles Smith and I live in Capitol Heights, Maryland. I'm formally submitting my written testimony in opposition to HB 671- Public Information Act – Personnel and Investigatory Records – Complaints Against Police Officers.

I appreciate all of the hard work that the Workgroup put in over the course of the summer and fall, however, I believe that this bill does not go far enough to ensure the transparency needed. The protection of disciplinary records has the consequence that officers can move between the over 100 police departments within the state of Maryland. It is important that officers with discipline records can not hide their past by jumping from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

While we appreciate that some police misconduct records would be removed from personnel record restrictions, this is still not going far enough. All police misconduct records need to be able to be disclosed. This list is just a start and needs to be expanded which is why I am asking for this committee to instead support HB 120-Anton's law.

Please reach out if you would like to discuss further

Charles Smith

Smith.charlesajr@gmail.com