

I am a Johns Hopkins Graduate Researcher and proud Baltimore community member writing to support HB0336 to repeal the ability for Johns Hopkins University to create a private, armed police department.

It is unconscionable to suggest that in a time of national reckoning with the ills of policing in this country, that the solution to a corrupt and ineffective Baltimore Police Department, of which the leaders of Baltimore City have no control, is to allow a private institution to create another police force that the city also does not have control over. In particular, Johns Hopkins University has a demonstrated history of oppressing Black people, dating back to the affront to the family of Henrietta Lacks. Today, Hopkins continues this oppression through lawsuits pursued against disproportionately Black Baltimoreans, many of which are over amounts of less than \$2,000. Just recently, Hopkins namesake was found to have been a slave owner, shattering a shield that the institution has wielded to claim that they were founded by an abolitionist. The university is now attempting to use this police force to directly control the residents of neighborhoods bordering their campuses, as if suing them into bankruptcy was not enough.

This institution has ignored the concerns of their faculty, nurses, students, and staff as well as the Baltimore City residents that would live with this policing every day in their own communities. Not only have community associations adjacent to Hopkins voted to oppose this police force, Hopkins affiliates of color, including myself, strongly oppose the formation of this force. We do not support policing our students, staff, faculty, patients, neighbors, and visitors to East Baltimore and Johns Hopkins.

When their bill was being debated, Hopkins attempted to tell you that this was an urgent need, that without this bill they would not be able to protect their affiliates. Two years after its passage, no police force has been created and Hopkins announced an additional 2-year pause in creating the force. Is this what urgent means? If this were so urgent, then why would they back down to the pressure from around the world to stop using policing Black and Brown as a solution to problems of poverty and desperation? Do not allow this institution to play us for fools. I implore you to support this bill, as the half a million dollars in lobbying by JHU does not matter more than the lives of people who are rising up to oppose private police anywhere. It is time to support this bill and repeal Hopkins' ability to police this city, along with any private entity that chooses policing over community engagement.