



Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAIR Office in Maryland
6120 Baltimore National Pike, Suite 2D
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 253-2132 | mdoutreach@cair.com | www.cair.com

July 28, 2020

Re: Testimony in **Support** of Bill No. 73-20

Dear Baltimore County Council-members:

On behalf of the Maryland office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, I thank the Baltimore County Council for this opportunity to testify in **support** of Bill No. 73-20 introduced by Councilman Julian Jones. CAIR is the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. It is dedicated to protecting civil rights, promoting justice, empowering American Muslims, and enhancing the understanding of Islam.

Amidst a national awakening after George Floyd's murder on May 25 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, CAIR supports the call for Baltimore County to take police reform and accountability seriously in order to improve public safety for every resident of this county and to help repair relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

Unfortunately, there have been too many incidents in the Greater Baltimore region and around the country involving misconduct by police officers. Increasing accountability for officers helps them fulfill the oath they took upon becoming an officer - the oath to protect and serve.

Banning the use of chokeholds, introducing a duty to intervene, mandating de-escalation training and ensuring that civilians are able to serve on trial boards will help create a more transparent, accountable and restorative approach to crime and justice, rather than relying on a broken and biased system.

These changes are necessary for Baltimore County to truly be a safe and inclusive place for all its residents. Our communities' collective well-being must be our collective priority. As elected officials, you have the ability to ensure the safety of your constituents and uphold the trust placed within you to serve their needs. We urge a favorable report on bill 73-20.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,
Eimaan Imran
Legislative Intern, CAIR Office in Maryland
Council on American-Islamic Relations