



Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform

Dear Delegate

Chair Luke Clippinger
Vice Chair Vanessa Atterbeary
Speaker Adrienne Jones

The House and Senate have passed distinctly different versions of the police reform bills. In particular, the Senate bill SB626 was weakened by an amendment that removed the specific definition of lethal force and the restrictions on its use (pp. 3-7 of original bill).

Current, fear-based policing tactics with insufficient legislative oversight have led to the all-too-often, tragic and unnecessary killing of civilians. The House bill (HB670) wisely offers explicit, bright-line guidance to police authorities: a clear definition of 'lethal force'; examples of 'reasonable alternatives'; and an objective standard of 'imminent threat.'

This House language is needed or, once again, it will be left to the police to set their own lethal force standards.

I am asking you to ensure that inclusion of the lethal force language is part of any compromise bill.

Sincerely,