



May 12, 2025

Councilwoman McCray, Committee Chairwoman  
Baltimore City Council Budget & Appropriations Committee  
Councilwoman Porter, Bill Sponsor  
Baltimore City Hall, 4th Floor  
100 N. Holliday St, Baltimore, MD 21202

Chairwoman McCray and Councilwoman Porter,

I am Tehma Smith Wilson and I'm the CEO of the Baltimore Urban Leadership Foundation, also known as "The Door." The Door has been making a significant impact in the communities of Baltimore City for over 40 years. In my leadership capacity, The Door frequently partners with Johns Hopkins as we serve our city.

As a result of this partnership, I know firsthand that Baltimore's nonprofit universities and hospitals provide an immeasurable value to Baltimore City and the communities surrounding their campuses. I am particularly familiar with Johns Hopkins University & Hospital, because they are the closest institutions to the community where I live and where I work.

Although other parts of the city have multiple universities and hospitals, East Baltimore only has one, Johns Hopkins. Hopkins is a consistent and engaged partner for The Door and many other nonprofits and residents. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Johns Hopkins convened more than two dozen nonprofit, faith, and community leaders to address needs identified by the community, which included, food access, testing and vaccinations, and PPE. In addition to serving as a convener, Hopkins invested millions of dollars to provide more than 6 million meals, PPE, testing, and vaccinations to families impacted by the pandemic. The impact of this coalition is still present in our community. Five years after the onset of the pandemic, this coalition still meets on a weekly basis to work together and address our community's needs and concerns, such as public safety, healthcare access, health equity, housing, and food access.

It is evident that Johns Hopkins is doing its part to support community organizations and provide resources to our community residents. I'm sure that the other universities and hospitals across the city provide similar community investments and support.

I am concerned to hear about the threats that these institutions face regarding their federal government funding and their ability to continue to financial assist our community organizations. Therefore, as you are weighing how to proceed, please consider the great value that these larger nonprofit institutions like Johns Hopkins bring to Baltimore City.

Sincerely,

Tehma Smith, CEO