

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Delegates Martinez, Acevero, Addison, Alston, Fair, Fennell, Guzzone, Hill, Kaiser, Kaufman, R. Lewis, McCaskill, Pasteur, Phillips, Roberts, Ruff, Ruth, Simpson, Solomon, Taveras, Taylor, Turner, Vogel, Wilkins, Woods, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – The American Dream**

3 FOR the purpose of affirming Maryland’s commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
4 (DEI) as a foundation of the American Dream; encouraging certain individuals and  
5 groups to adopt and uphold DEI principles; and generally relating to the American  
6 Dream and DEI.

7 WHEREAS, For generations the American Dream has been a beacon of hope; and

8 WHEREAS, The American Dream embodies the ideals of opportunity, prosperity,  
9 and upward mobility, promising that every person should have the chance to achieve what  
10 they themselves define as success and fulfillment through hard work and determination;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Many today feel as though their American Dream is unattainable; and

13 WHEREAS, The American Dream belongs to all of us, not just billionaires and  
14 multimillionaires; and

15 WHEREAS, Our highest accomplishments as a state and nation have been achieved  
16 when we harnessed the strengths of all people, regardless of their identities, to overcome  
17 our greatest challenges; and

18 WHEREAS, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is a centuries–old movement  
19 deeply rooted in America’s founding principles and its subsequent legacy of civil rights and  
20 social justice efforts aimed at delivering the laws, policies, and initiatives that enable  
21 America to live up to our Constitution’s promises; and



1 WHEREAS, DEI policies, from the 19th Amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
2 to the Americans with Disabilities Act, among others, reflect the corrective legislative and  
3 legal actions taken across our nation's history to expand and guarantee access to the  
4 educational, economic, and civic obligations and capacities of our nation; and

5 WHEREAS, DEI principles and policies promote equal access to opportunities, foster  
6 an environment of respect and belonging, and ensure that every individual – regardless of  
7 background – can fully participate in all aspects of society; and

8 WHEREAS, DEI is essential to creating a society where all individuals are valued,  
9 heard, and included; and

10 WHEREAS, DEI is based on removing barriers to opportunity so that our merits can  
11 speak for themselves; and

12 WHEREAS, DEI is committed to widening pathways to the American Dream for  
13 every community so that all people can reap the benefits of shared prosperity in our nation;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Freedom of speech and expression are fundamental constitutional  
16 rights, protecting the ability of individuals to voice their ideas and opinions without  
17 interference, punishment, or retaliation by the government; and

18 WHEREAS, Anti-DEI activists, politicians, and corporate decision-makers who  
19 attempt to prohibit DEI infringe upon the right of individuals to freely express themselves,  
20 diminish the diversity of perspectives that strengthen our society, and conflict with  
21 antidiscrimination laws; and

22 WHEREAS, Efforts to attack DEI are harmful to the bottom line and health of our  
23 economy; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Maryland  
25 affirms its commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as an essential foundation for  
26 achieving the American Dream and fostering environments where all individuals have the  
27 freedom to be healthy, prosperous, and safe, and the opportunity to realize their full  
28 potential; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That Maryland encourages local, State, and federal policymakers,  
30 educational institutions, workplaces, and other organizations to adopt and uphold DEI  
31 principles that promote inclusivity, protect freedom of expression, remove barriers, and  
32 provide equitable opportunities for all individuals to pursue their dreams; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Resolution be sent by the Secretary of State  
34 to: the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, 1600  
35 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President  
36 of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Suite S-212, United States  
37 Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Charles E. Grassley, President

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3

1 Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington,  
2 D.C., 20510; and the Honorable James Michael Johnson, Speaker of the United States  
3 House of Representatives, H-232, United States Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;  
4 and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
6 Legislative Services to the Honorable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable  
7 William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable Adrienne A.  
8 Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and the Maryland Congressional Delegation.