

Letters to the Editor [Opinion](#)

# Maryland needs a new state song



New bronze statues of Frederick Douglass, above, and Harriet Tubman were unveiled at the Maryland State House in Annapolis on Feb. 10. (Michael Robinson Chavez/The Washington Post)

By **Letters to the Editor**

Feb. 16, 2020 at 5:52 p.m. EST

Regarding the Feb. 11 Metro article “[Standing tall](#)”:

How wonderful that Maryland unveiled statues of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass in the State House. In the same building is a plaque commemorating the Civil War and honoring the sacrifice of people “on both sides of the conflict” — a plaque that House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones (D-Baltimore County) called “an affront to people of color.” Equally offensive are the lyrics of the bellicose Maryland state song. It calls President Abraham Lincoln a “despot,” refers to the Union Army as “[Northern scum](#)” and implores Maryland to secede and join Virginia as a Confederate state. Virginia retired its racist state song, “Carry Me Back To Old Virginy,” in 1997. When will Maryland follow suit?

**Fran Rothstein, Silver Spring**