

SB 0008 – SUPPORT
GENERAL PROVISIONS – STATE SONG – REPEAL
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

I am a long-time resident of Maryland and believe we must stop honoring the Confederacy with our state song, *Maryland! My Maryland!* I am in SUPPORT of SB 0008.

The lyrics to *Maryland! My Maryland!* glorify and honor the state's slaveholding past. In 2021, this is no longer something we want to do, rather we want to make people of all colors welcome in our state.

I have a M.A. in American History, which I earned at the University of Maryland. It was there, under the direction of noted historian Dr. Ira Berlin that I had the opportunity to participate in research at the National Archives pertaining to the experience of enslaved people and their struggle for freedom. I learned there was nothing honorable about the Confederacy and its fight to maintain a slave society.

I also spent my career as a graphic designer and that is where I learned that symbols matter, and words matter. I would never have used a symbol like the Confederate flag because it is in itself a divisive force and stands as a relic of traitors to the U.S.

The words in *Maryland! My Maryland!* reflect Maryland's shameful past, not our current values. It is time for repeal.

I urge a favorable report on SB 0008.

*Submitted by Holly Syrrakos, hollyrockus@gmail.com, 301-312-2525
March 11, 2021*