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SB0008 – State Song -- Repeal [And Replace]

**** Favorable With Amendment ****

March 11, 2021

Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, Esteemed Members of the MD Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, All Members of the MD General Assembly, All Marylanders, All Americans, and all of Humanity,

I write in favor of repealing the current state song for the simple reason that it does not properly, effectively, or honestly reflect the aspirations of our beautiful State.

Music and song are almost as universal as eating and sleeping.

Songs have meaning and songs are powerful and inspire people.

Music Makes the World a Better Place... but it can also cause hurt and pain and division.

That is the case of our current, racist, divisive, State Song.

As the well-known saying goes,

“If you have nothing nice to sing, don’t sing anything at all!

Given the choice of a hurtful song... or no song... we are better with no ‘official’ song.

However, I would put forth a friendly amendment for consideration by the sponsoring Vice-Chair and fellow Committee Members, to designate ‘*Maryland My Maryland*’ written by former MD Senator, Jamie Raskin, as an interim Official State Song.

<https://fb.watch/47wsIsJKSL/>

All of Maryland would benefit from the positive, uplifting, all-inclusive, NON-partisan, role-modeling aspirational message embodied in this song at a time when we so badly need such messaging – I would put forth this bill should be granted Emergency status!

Most sincerely,

