

State of Maryland

Commission on Civil Rights

“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”



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March 11, 2021

Senate Bill 8 – General Provisions – State Song – Repeal **POSITION: Support**

Dear Chairperson Pinsky, Vice Chairperson Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

Senate Bill 8 repeals the State Song “Maryland! My Maryland!” effective July 1, 2021. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights supports SB8 because our State, with such notable citizens as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas, and Thurgood Marshall, deserves a symbol of Maryland pride that reflects the contributions and dignity of all across the State. SB8 rightfully retires this song to the annals of history, thereby creating an opportunity for Maryland to adopt a State Song that represents the very best that we have to offer.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on SB8. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.