

The Honorable William Smith, Chairman
And members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB 864 – Task Force on Preventing & Countering Domestic Terrorism – OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

SB 864 – is divisive, one-sided, repeats hyper-partisan rhetoric and encourages racial mis-trust and mis-trust of the fairness of our government.

Over the last 50 years the United States has made great progress toward the goal of judging people by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin as stated by Martin Luther King, Jr. As a country and as a people we are not perfect – but we have made great progress. Reverse discrimination will not make us perfect as a nation or a State. The events and cynical actions of the media, social media and political movements during the last year to distort, mis-state and withhold factual information have caused great harm to the social fabric and harmony of our country.

SB 864- calls out “violent white supremacy is the most persistent and lethal threat in the Homeland” but does not call out the violent protests and riots and burning of parts of major cities for more than 6 months in 2020. People died—black and white—during those riots. Businesses were lost – businesses owned by black and white, native-born and immigrant alike. A Federal Courthouse was attacked nightly for more than 30 days with attempts to burn it down with people inside. Where is the condemnation of these actions? Where is the arrests of those setting those fires? Where is the condemnation of these actions and concern for terrorism by leftist groups?

The riot at the U.S. Capitol was outrageous. I condemn that violence. Everyone condemns it. But the riot by a few hundred mis-guided, angry people should not condemn the thousands of people who came to the Nation’s capital to peacefully make their voices heard. No more than the many people who peacefully protested for protection of black lives should be judged as being aligned with the radical Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation that espouses disruption of the nuclear family structure of the United States or the Antifa movement to destroy American democracy.

Republican members of Congress have been attacked for questioning the election results for the Electoral College on January 6th – some Democrats and media even advocating that they should be impeached and removed from Congress. Yet, Democrats, including Speaker Pelosi, have raised the same questions and issues in three of the five previous presidential elections. We need some fairness and objectivity in judging actions by the same metrics.

SB 864 does nothing to heal or improve the civility of our society. It will not make us safer. We need to de-escalate the anger and hatred promoted in the last several years. Please give an Unfavorable Report to SB 864.

Sincerely,
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