

March 1, 2022

Testimony on House Bill 594
State Government - Maryland Reparations Commission –Establishment
(Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act)
House Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1300 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support House Bill 594, the Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act.

Records available from the Maryland State Archives indicate that hundreds of thousands of persons were held in slavery in Maryland from the colonial period through emancipation. House Bill 594 establishes a reparations commission to develop and administer a program to provide compensatory benefits to the descendants of individuals enslaved in the State. It also identifies certain specific benefits to be made available to those descendants.

While House Bill 594 does not address or remedy all of Maryland’s history of systemic racial oppression and its impacts, and cannot make up for the harms imposed by slavery on generations, it is an important acknowledgement of our debt to those held in legally-enforced bondage and their descendants.

We urge you to give House Bill 594

