

Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
And Members of The Health and Government Operations Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 594- State Government-Maryland Reparations Commission- Establishment  
(Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act)- **OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Members of The Committee,

While there is no question that The Black Codes and The Jim Crow Laws stifled the progress and advancement of African Americans from the post-Civil War Era to 1968, and that they were created to marginalize African Americans by denying them the right to vote, hold jobs, get an education and other opportunities, the ratification of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments rectified this cultural wrongdoing. It is not a proud part of American history, but it is just that...history. A monetary value cannot be placed on any detriment that was suffered centuries ago and an attempt to do so seems feudal. Furthermore, even if a monetary value is determined, it is perplexing that, today's African American population should be recipients of such compensation.

Compensation is, by definition, "something, typically money, awarded to someone as a recompense for loss, injury, or suffering". Compensating today's African American population for detriment which occurred centuries ago is misdirected. It seems to be an apologetic act of pity awarding compensation for suffering to those who didn't suffer.

In addition, HB-594 would set a precedent for other groups of individuals that were oppressed throughout history (i.e.: women, other ethnic groups). Where would it end?

Finally, establishing a Commission for Economic Justice and Reconciliation for the purpose of determining disparities and compensating for such will require funds from an already suffering state budget and the pockets of Maryland citizens already struggling to fund their own basic family needs.

For these reasons, I ask that you vote for an unfavorable report for HB-594- Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act.

Thank you for your time,  
Sarah Price  
221 Miller Street  
Westernport, MD