



February 6, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chairwoman Kelly, and Members of the Committee,

Quaker Voice of Maryland is submitting this testimony in FAVOR of HB0049 – Economic Justice and Racial Reconciliation Act.

One of the testimonies of Quakerism is *Equality*, meaning that Quakers recognize “that of God in everyone”. Social justice legislation is important to Quakers because it offers equality in action. Quakers acknowledge that the word “equality” does not take into account the fact that systemic racism has created racial disparities, such as wealth and resources, which we understand has harmed and continues to harm People of Color.

This bill stands out to our members as important because it recognizes that not all people have been treated equally because of the deep roots of racism and white privilege that previously was permitted by both the U.S. Constitution, federal and state laws, as well as social and economic systems. Many Quakers discern that some such laws and systems continue to negatively affect Marylanders to this very day.

Quaker Voice of Maryland chose this bill as one of its top 2023 legislative priorities because the bill properly seeks to study both past and present systemic injustices and to find the means to correct these. We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

Molly Finch

Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland

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