



Randallstown

P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

February 27, 2023

Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT HB 0875-Maryland Reparations Commission - Establishment.

Dear Honorable Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, VC Bonnie Cullison, and members of the committee:

The Randallstown NAACP is a chapter of the NAACP located in Baltimore County. The branch has over 500 members from Baltimore County and the region. May it be known the mission of the Randallstown NAACP is to secure equal rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons in Baltimore County and the State of Maryland.

Reparations is about repairing a debt owed to Black Americans. Reparations have to do with 250 years of slavery, followed by another 100 years of legalized segregation or discrimination and how that impacted the economic well-being of Black Americans.

Black Americans never really had a chance to create wealth. Over 250 years of slavery where they are unable to accumulate any capital. Then, Black Americans face the dragnet of discrimination and segregation that further prevents them from building any type of wealth. Black people were denied access to colleges, were denied access to high schools, and were denied access to higher paying jobs. Black people being denied access to the primary wealth-building tools, homeownership, federally financed loans, the G.I. Bill to be able to purchase housing that white Americans use to build their wealth. The forces to deprive us of wealth have built up over generations, and then only made worse by the fact that today Black Americans still face discrimination across the spectrum of American life.

Public policy has created the Black–White gulf in wealth, and it will require public policy to eliminate it. HB 0875 begins us down the path to correct these injustices.

The Randallstown Branch of the NAACP urges a favorable report from the committee on HB 0875.

yours,

Ryan Coleman
Randallstown NAACP, President
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