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TO: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health & Government Operations Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB 49 – Economic Justice and Racial Reconciliation Act (Support)

The Office of Attorney General urges a favorable report on HB 49, Delegate Amprey's bill to establish the Commission for Economic Justice and Racial Reconciliation to study racial disparities in wealth and resources as a result of Maryland tax and other laws in place from the Reconstruction Era through the enactment of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. The bill also requires the Commission to develop and report to the Governor and General Assembly by October 1, 2025, recommendations relating to compensation for the State's African American communities for the racial disparities so identified and to identify potential sources of State funding for such compensation.

As a matter of policy, we support pursuing economic justice and racial reconciliation. House Bill 49 goes a long way towards achieving those salutary goals and, consequently, we urge a favorable report on HB 49.

cc: The Honorable Marlon Amprey and Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us