



State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

Respect...Integrity...Effective Communication

February 22, 2023

HB 339 Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reporting and Sunset Extension

POSITION: Support

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Lt. Governor
Aruna Miller

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CCEP

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Dear Chairperson Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chairperson Kelly and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

HB 339 extends the time for the submission of the final report of the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (“the Commission”) to December 1, 2024, and extends the termination date of the Commission to June 30, 2025.

MCCR supports the extension of time for the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission to complete its very important work investigating and reporting the truth about lynching in the State of Maryland, as well as recommend what steps to be taken that may lead to reconciliation. The unpredicted health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic slowed the work of the Commission and made meeting the original deadline next to impossible. Therefore in the interest of thoroughness and accuracy, providing the Commission the additional time ensure the State will receive a more complete report on December 1, 2024.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on HB 49. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.

“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”

William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-1631
Phone: 410-767-8600 · Toll Free: 1-800-637-6247 · Maryland Relay: 711 · Fax: 410-333-1841
Website: mccr.maryland.gov · E-Mail: mccr@maryland.gov