



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

## **FAVORABLE**

### **HB 409**

#### **State Government - Maryland Reparations Commission - Establishment (Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act)**

**To: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair, Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice-Chair, and  
members of the Health and Government Operations Committee**

**From: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, co-chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network**

**Date: March 1, 2023**

The Episcopal Church and the Maryland Episcopal Diocese strongly support this bill. “Our call by God as the Body of Christ in the world today is to participate in God’s reconciling work in the world. The centuries of damage and harm caused by institutional racism calls for our continued leadership as a Church to do our part to bring restitution, beginning in our own diocese...” So began the explanation for Resolution 2020-06; Title: Racial Restitution and Reconciliation; presented by the Diocesan Council and passed unanimously by the 236<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland (EDOM).

In 2006, the General Convention also passed resolution 2006-CO11: “Resolved, that the 75th General Convention, affirming our commitments to become a transformed, anti-racist church and to work toward healing, reconciliation, and a restoration of wholeness to the family of God, urge the Church at every level to call upon Congress and the American people to support legislation initiating study of and dialogue about the history and legacy of slavery in the United States and of proposals for monetary and non-monetary reparations to the descendants of the victims of slavery.” At the Diocesan Convention of the EDOM in November 2021, Resolution 2021-5 was overwhelmingly passed. That Resolution supported the establishment by Congress of a similar commission set forth in HB 409.

The establishment of the Commission set forth in HB 409 is long overdue and would be a form of loving our neighbors as ourselves..

As people of faith, we strongly urge a favorable report.