

Dear Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (SURJ3A). I am a resident of District 33A. I am testifying in opposition to HB409 and HB875, because it does not go far enough.

I am in support of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America's position on these bills.

These bills are compensatory bills; this is not full reparations. In 2016, a United Nations panel ruled that reparations are due to descendants of enslaved people around the world¹ The UN defined 5 areas of repair:

1. Restitution – which includes restoration of liberty and human rights, and the return of property.
2. Compensation for damages, including physical harm as well as lost opportunities and earnings.
3. Rehabilitation – from the health and psychological effects of enslavement and institutional racism.
4. Satisfaction – cessation of human rights violations and abuses, establishment of truth-seeking commissions, public apologies, and the establishment of sites to commemorate the history of enslavement.
5. Guarantees of non-repetition – the reforms needed to ensure the prevention of future abuses.

I am concerned that compensatory legislation can morph into something that is race neutral and People of African Descent will remain the injured party.

In addition, these bills do not specify public involvement through community based hearings, town halls and opportunities for the public to submit input in writing if they cannot attend the public events.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to oppose HB409 and HB875.

I also encourage you to take several steps back and study the work of the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans as well as review their [Interim Report](#) and watch their [community hearings](#).

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<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2016/01/statement-media-united-nations-working-group-experts-people-african-descent>.

I know that we can do an even better job than California because we can study their experiences and develop lessons learned. Furthermore, there are numerous qualified folk who are willing to guide Maryland in this journey. Lasty, Governor Moore sees reparations much like what is happening in California. He supports full repair, not just compensation.

I recommend that you start over, study the experiences in California, seek the guidance of the qualified individuals in Maryland, and create a bill that includes full repair (the five areas mentioned above) as well as public input.

I appreciate your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

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