

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair
Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair
Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 102
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3145 · 301-858-3145
800-492-7122 Ext. 3145
Mary.Washington@senate.state.md.us

February 22, 2023

Hon. Chair Senator William C. Smith Jr and Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Please accept this letter from the Office of Senator Mary Washington in **support of SB867 - Vehicle Laws – Special and Commemorative Registration Plate – Maryland Heroes**. There is a long history in Maryland of utilizing commemorative or specialty customized license plates to honor and support a variety of causes, from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund to 1910s vintage plates. This bill seeks to honor black heroes, and commemorates Marylanders Frederick Douglas and Harriet Tubman, two of our state's greatest. These plates were designed in conjunction with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, and Senator Zucker has done an incredible job in making sure these plates do justice to such important figures from our history. The Commission, under this bill, is also given purview over distribution of funds generated by the revenue of these specialty plates, which will further aid educational and honorary programs for African American history and culture.

I believe these plates will serve as a positive feature in the representation of Maryland across the country, and will allow Marylanders to showcase our pride in our heroes. Furthermore, this bill will allow Maryland to establish a precedent for the honoring of black heroes. It is an absolute privilege to get to co-sponsor this legislation, and I would ask that the committee give this bill due consideration and respect.

I am respectfully requesting a favorable vote on SB0867.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mary Washington'.

Senator Mary Washington
Maryland 43rd District