



January 19, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health & Government Operations  
Committee  
Room 241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Bonnie Cullison  
Vice Chair, Health & Government Operations  
Committee  
Room 241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison,

I would like to express my full support for *House Bill 133 - Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers in Maryland*.

During the Civil War, six Maryland United States Colored Troops (USCT) Regiments were called into service. This proposed commission will study their muster locations, troop rosters, locations of service, battlefield movements, and all distinguished honors of recognition bestowed upon these regiments. Additionally, this study will provide recommendations for the funding and development of a memorial dedicated to Maryland's USCT Regiments, which will honor their contributions during the Civil War. While the USCT did not fight in any battles in Maryland, they were instrumental in the success of the Union Army through their deployment to Richmond, VA and the surrounding area.

As you may know, Maryland's Sixth Congressional District is steeped in Civil War History; being the home to three national parks dedicated to major battles of the Civil War, as well as numerous other sites that are frequently visited by historians and every day Americans who are interested in learning more about this important conflict in our Nation's history.

This is why a commission to highlight the important role that Maryland's USCT Regiments played in this conflict is so vital to telling the whole history of this war. These brave soldiers deserve the recognition for their service - too often their dedication and commitment to a free, united, and stronger America is forgotten, or worse, willfully withheld. Ultimately, through our preservation and remembrance of these regiments, inspiration for our next generation of Maryland leaders to achieve greatness and honor can be realized.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to give *House Bill 133 - Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers in Maryland* the highest consideration.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone", written in a cursive style.

David Trone  
Member of Congress