



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

March 27, 2024

Judicial Proceedings
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 763 – Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention - Membership and Sunset

Members of the Committee:

I write to you as the Executive Director of the Maryland NAACP to express our strong opposition to House Bill 763, which proposes the termination of the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention. This bill not only threatens the crucial work of this commission but also undermines the vital role it plays in addressing the pressing issues of hate crimes and discrimination in our state.

The proposed termination of the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention is deeply concerning, especially in the current socio-political climate where incidents of Islamophobia, antisemitism, and the continued marginalization of Black and Brown communities are on the rise. At a time when hate crimes are escalating, it is imperative that we strengthen our efforts to combat bigotry and intolerance, not dismantle the very institutions tasked with addressing these injustices.

Furthermore, we object to the proposed changes to the composition of the commission, which would replace grassroots organizations with businesses. This alteration fundamentally undermines the intent and effectiveness of the commission. Grassroots organizations are the heartbeat of our communities, with a deep understanding of the issues faced by marginalized groups and the ability to engage directly with those affected. By replacing these organizations with businesses, we risk diluting the commission's ability to effectively serve those most impacted by hate crimes and discrimination.

It is essential to recognize that hate crimes not only inflict harm on individual victims but also threaten the fabric of our society as a whole. The Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention plays a critical role in addressing these crimes, advocating for victims, and promoting policies that foster inclusivity and tolerance in our communities.

Therefore, we urge you to reject House Bill 763 and instead reaffirm your commitment to combating hate crimes by preserving and strengthening the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention. Let us stand united in the fight against hate and discrimination, and ensure that Maryland remains a beacon of justice and equality for all its residents.

Thank you for considering our concerns.



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In Service,

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