

Maryland Reparations Commission

In Favor of SB0587

Tonet Cuffee
313 Pine Street
Hurlock MD 21613

RELATIVE OF HARRIET TUBMAN

2/25/2025

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Tonet Cuffee, and I am a proud relative of Harriet Tubman from Dorchester County, Eastern Shore Maryland. I am writing to express my support for SB0587. This bill presents a crucial opportunity to address longstanding disparities and promote economic growth in historically marginalized communities throughout our state.

As a relative of Harriet Tubman and a Marylander, I have lived the impact of systemic disinvestment on communities like mine. It is imperative that we rally behind this legislation to make a positive change.

The Underground Railroad is still under construction, which is why my family and I stand in solidarity with SB0587.

The Eastern Shore of Maryland has a rich history intertwined with the struggles and triumphs of Enslaved Marylanders, particularly in the realms of economic self-sufficiency and community resilience. Harriet Tubman's legacy serves as a beacon of liberation and empowerment, reminding us of our duty to invest in communities that have long been deprived of essential resources. SB0587 is an investment and repayment for all of the disparities that came along with slavery.

SB0587 is a strong positive step in the right direction. Descendants of slaves face significant inequalities in the United States, particularly in areas like economics (income disparity, wealth gap), education attainment, housing access, healthcare, criminal justice system, and employment opportunities, often stemming from systemic racism, leading to lower overall quality of life compared to other racial groups.

Please support SB0587.

Sincerely,

Tonet Cuffee