

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senate Bill 587
Favorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 587, regarding a Maryland Reparations Commission, a FAVORABLE report.

The consequences of enslavement have continued to affect Black people 160 years after emancipation. This is the result of us never truly coming to terms with the evils of slavery. Enslavement; the failures of Reconstruction; Jim Crow laws; discrimination in housing, loans, employment, education, voting access, and police actions, etc. have had negative effects on the upward mobility of Black people in the United States. (You can't pull yourself up by your bootstraps if you don't have bootstraps to pull yourself up by.) These wrongs can never be righted, but reparations are a way to acknowledge that the white people of the United States unjustly benefited from the oppression of Black people, and that we must attempt to make amends. As a white woman, I won't benefit from reparations. I may even have to pay higher taxes in order to help cover the costs. But I'm okay with that because reparations are the right thing to do. The proposed Commission is an important and long-overdue first step. Please give Senate Bill 587 a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debi Jasen

Pasadena, MD

(yes, this is identical to the testimony for the other reparations bill)