



Southern Maryland Chapter

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Senate Education Energy and the Environment  
Committee

Re: Senate Bill 587: State Government – Maryland Reparations Commission

The issue of reparation is quite complex and misunderstood. It highlights the racial divides that still exist among us. It's a pain we always try to hide, disguise, or completely forget. Reparations make one think of economic, political, and moral decisions that one must review with an equity lens. Our nation prospered from this evil, and many of our institutions, like the church, profited as well. It must be repaired.

Reparations, quite simply, mean repairing something that was broken. It is not just about monetary compensation. It is not the transfer of wealth from white people to black people; it is what this generation will do to repair the broken pieces of the racial disorder we have inherited from the past.

Forgiveness alone is one step in the long journey to reconcile our past with the present. As an African American majority organization who are descendants of slaves who were never compensated for their centuries of involuntary servitude, I can honestly say we forgave this country a long time ago, but we aren't reconciled. White plantation owners received reparation in the form of compensation for the losses they incurred from the Civil War and the end of slavery. Racism and greed have fueled fundamental injustice, and those attitudes have poisoned race relations ever since. DEI removals, Charlottesville torch carriers, George Floyd, Freddie Gray, and Breonna Taylor are proof that we haven't reckoned with the past.

We look to you as Legislators to lead us through the journey. Please do not fail us again. We ask for your favorable vote on Senate Bill 587.

Respectfully submitted,

Southern Maryland Chapter of National Coalition of 100 Black Women

