



# State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

*Respect...Integrity...Effective Communication*

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March 10, 2025

## **House Joint Resolution 4 – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - The American Dream Position: Support**

Dear Chairperson Healey, Vice Chairperson Holmes, and Members of the House Rules & Executive Nominations Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for enforcing Maryland’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, state contracts, commercial leasing, and health services based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, source of income, and military status.

House Joint Resolution 4 is a bold declaration by the Maryland General Assembly that not only affirms our State’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) in all aspects of our life, but also rightfully connects DEI’s impact and contributions to the American Dream that underpins American culture and society.

MCCR has worked tirelessly with employers, housing providers, community advocates, businesses, and other stakeholders and leaders for years now to advance and promote DEI education and programs. The anecdotal and empirical proof is clear – everyone wins when we share in a commitment to equity, inclusion, and opportunity for all. As some seek to divide us along social and economic lines, DEI is a positive and impactful force that unites us while empowering us to lift one another up.

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable on HJ4. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. MCCR looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to promote and improve fair housing and civil rights in Maryland.

*“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”*

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