



# State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

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

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March 3, 2025

## **House Joint Resolution 5 - Elementary and Secondary Education - Curriculum - Importance of Diversity 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 5 is a bold statement by the Maryland General Assembly that our State is committed to an education system whose curricula is founded upon and represents our collective diversity in an inclusive, respectful, and compassionate way.

We at the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights see every day how acts of discrimination, hate, and intolerance are on the rise. From taking the life of a loved one to depriving individuals of social and economic security, these senseless acts of harassment, intimidation, and violence are life altering events that scar not only the individual but our entire societal consciousness.

History shows us that one of the most effective ways of combatting the flames of injustice is to harness the potential of our education system. HJ5 seeks to do this by making it a foundation in our public policy that teaching our children our strength as both a State and a nation is derived from our peoples' diverse background and histories. Through both a commitment to and investment in empathy, understanding, and mutual respect, we can begin building a future that does not risk repeating the destructive and traumatic events of our past.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on HJ5. 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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