



# State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

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

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March 12, 2026

## **Senate Joint Resolution 3 – Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings Position: Support**

Dear Chairperson Feldman, Vice Chairperson Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”) 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.

In its Final Report issued on December 9, 2025, the Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission (“Commission”)<sup>1</sup> recommends that the Maryland General Assembly issue an official apology and acknowledge Maryland’s responsibility for the 38 documented cases of racial terror lynching in the State between 1854 and 1933. SJ3 adopts the Commission’s recommendation, issuing the first apology within Maryland for the State’s failure to address and prevent the atrocities faced by Black families and communities throughout Maryland for generations. SJ3 also commits our public policy to taking reparative actions as recommended by the Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on SJ3. 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 civil rights in Maryland.

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<sup>1</sup> MCCR has served as an agency member since the Commission’s inception.

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