

Esi Fynn-Obeng

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Senate Joint Resolution 3 (SJ0003)

10 March 2026

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Joint Resolution 3

My name is Esi Fynn-Obeng and I am second-year law student at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. I am testifying in favor of Senate Joint Resolution 3 (SJ0003) regarding the State's apology and acknowledgement in its responsibility in racial terror lynchings.

As a law student, I echo the work and findings of the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC) which was granted the authority in 2019 to investigate, record, and reconcile the history of racial terror lynchings of Black Americans in Maryland. In its final report, contained 84 recommendations for reparations, repair, and legislative action all aimed at addressing the lasting impact of these lynchings and the disparities its created. As remedy, I support the commission's efforts to address this legacy of racial violence by promoting racial healing, action, and apologies for descendants of both victims and those from terrorized communities. Approving this apology is a vital step in acknowledging the state's historical involvement in these racial killings and fostering community-wide reconciliation. With this said, I urge the Assembly to approve this apology as well as the other 83 recommendations of the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Esi Fynn-Obeng

University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law