

HB 1271: Reparations - Board, Fund, and Excise Tax on Endowments - Establishment:
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 1271** during committee consideration or floor votes.

Creating a state-level reparations program funded by a targeted tax on university endowments sets a dangerous precedent: punishing private institutions retroactively for historical wrongs they did not commit, while imposing new costs that will ultimately be passed on to students, families, and Maryland taxpayers through higher tuition, reduced financial aid, or other adjustments.

The proposed excise tax is arbitrary, punitive, and economically damaging—particularly to Maryland’s higher education sector, which is a major driver of jobs, innovation, and economic growth. It also raises serious legal and constitutional questions, including equal protection and due process.

Maryland has already made substantial investments in education, economic opportunity, housing, and criminal justice reform aimed at addressing historical inequities—without resorting to divisive, race-based wealth transfers or new taxes on private entities.

This bill would deepen division, create unworkable administrative burdens, harm Maryland’s economy, and set a precedent for future targeted taxes on other private institutions or industries based on historical grievances.

For these reasons I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 1271**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this important fiscal, legal, and social policy legislation.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals