



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 19, 2026

Hon. Melissa Wells
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB0552 FAVORABLE

Chairperson Wells,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of HB0552** – Independent Investigation of the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children.

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: presmd.org)

This bill will establish the Independent Investigation of the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children. As well as it will establish the process for appointing the Principal Independent Investigator and the Deputy Independent Investigators. And require the Independent Investigation to undertake certain tasks related to the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children and the deaths that occurred there; providing that the Independent Investigation will be funded according to the State budget. We support this legislation as we believe its passage would positively impact our understanding of the state's long and challenging history.

HB0552 is an important piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.

Favorable

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO