



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for House Bill 47 (HB47) –Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names - Establishment. HB 47 establishes a commission tasked with conducting research on all public property, including buildings, streets, parks, and other spaces, to determine which are named after individuals or entities that served voluntarily with or on behalf of the Confederate States of America (CSA) in any military or civilian capacity. This commission would deliver its findings to the Governor and the 24 local jurisdictions.

This bill is a critical first step in ensuring that the names reflected in our public areas do not honor those who engaged in a rebellion that sought to continue the enslavement of African Americans and deny them their basic human rights. Public spaces should reflect our shared values as Marylanders and should not commemorate individuals who attempted to deny freedom and equality to African Americans.

HB 47 creates a commission whose job is to examine state- and locally-owned buildings and properties named after Confederate symbols or figures. By enforcing this bill, the initiative will help communities assess whether public spaces reflect values of equality and inclusion. Reviewing the names of these places ensures that all community members feel represented and respected.

This legislation directly addresses a history of oppression, racism, and inequality. It allows communities to acknowledge the past while deciding which values they want to honor today. By taking these steps, HB 47 emphasizes why renaming public spaces is necessary to create welcoming environments for all residents and demonstrates that the government values the perspectives of its communities in shaping spaces that feel inclusive and respectful.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports HB47.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland