

Montgomery County Council
Office of Councilmember Will Jawando
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HB 667 – *General Provisions - State Song - Repeal*
Testimony of Will Jawando, Montgomery County Council At-Large
Position: SUPPORT
February 24, 2021

Dear Esteemed Members of the General Assembly,

As an At-Large Councilmember on the Montgomery County Council, I write today in favor of repealing the Maryland state song. In July 2020, I joined my colleagues on the Council in calling for sending the official State song, a vestige of white supremacy and an ode to the Confederacy, into the ash heap of history where it belongs. The Maryland State song is supposed to invoke pride in the State we all call our home but for Marylanders of color, our current song is another glaring reminder of how deep our sordid, racist history runs. The State song is another Confederate monument that must be taken down and replaced with a symbol of diversity, equity, and the promise of a better Maryland for all. We cannot reckon with our past or build an equitable tomorrow if we celebrate our State at its very worst. I urge the General Assembly to take the common-sense step of repealing the State song and barring its use at any public event.

Will Jawando, Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large