

State of Maryland

Commission on Civil Rights

"Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination."



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March 17, 2021

House Bill 297 – Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Committee – Reporting and Sunset Extension POSITION: Support

Dear Chairperson Smith, Vice Chairperson Waldstreicher, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

House Bill 297 extends the reporting and sunset requirements for the Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission by two years to December 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, respectively. As you know, MCCR serves as a member of this Commission. MCCR believes that extending the reporting and sunset requirements by one year will better enable the Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission to complete its work and issue a final report to the Governor and General Assembly.

Accordingly, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable report on HB297. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.