



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 297

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission - Reporting and Sunset Extension

Judicial Proceedings Committee

3/17/2021

Good afternoon Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. My Name is Rev. Linda Boyd and I am here on behalf of the Maryland Episcopal Diocese. The Diocese represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. The Maryland Episcopal Diocese supports HB 297.

With the Covid pandemic that is still ongoing, and has been for over a year now, it has been exceedingly difficult for many commissions to do proper historical research, such as getting into archives and doing personal interviews. This is a process that cannot and should not be rushed.

Researching and writing about the history of lynching in Maryland and other states is especially important as part of our collective history. These horrible acts need to be addressed with facts and allowing the sorrow that is still felt by families to be recognized. This can only happen with a commission such as this one.

We feel strongly that we must continue to learn about and educate all people about this shameful part of our history with an ongoing aim for reconciliation and reparations. This Commission should be given time to complete their report.

We urge a favorable report on HB 297.