

**Good afternoon Esteemed member of this committee,
I am Dr. Lois Rosado and this is my colleague, Dr. Denise Nadasen, we represent the
Greenbelt Reparations Commission that was established by the citizens of Greenbelt
in 2021 to research and make recommendations for harms done to African
Americans and Native Americans in Greenbelt.**

**This testimony is in support of House Bill 1422 and Senate Bill 0587 to establish a
Maryland State Reparations Commission to rectify harms done to Black American
Marylanders during and after enslavement.**

**In 1614 the Maryland Assembly codified a race-based law that enslaves African
people and any children born to enslaved mothers for life. Maryland chattel slavery
lasted until November 1, 1864, when African people were emancipated.**

**Enslaved Africans built Maryland's economy while the families of slave owners
reaped the benefits from their uncompensated labor.**

**After Emancipation, Black American Marylanders continued to face Jim Crow laws
that fostered, segregation, voter suppression, housing discrimination, and exclusion
from economic opportunities.**

**Black American Marylanders have significantly less wealth than White Marylanders
due to discriminatory policies like redlining, unequal access to education or health
care, and exclusion from economic programs that benefited others.**

The demand for reparations is not new:

- **Belinda Sutton sued the Royals of Boston for compensation for 50 years of
enslavement in 1783.**
- **Callie House and Isiah Dickerson established the Mutual Relief, Bounty and
Pension Association to gain pensions/reparations for formerly enslaved people
in 1897.**
- **The United States government compensated Japanese Americans interned
during World War II in 1988.**

**The legacy of slavery and systemic racism has left an undeniable mark on the state
and residents of Maryland. We urge you to support the bill to establish a state
Reparations Commission to amend historical harms. Thank you for your
consideration.**