



**Office of the President**

University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
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January 15, 2021

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
The Honorable John Sarbanes  
The Honorable Kweisi Mfume  
The Honorable Andrew P. Harris  
The Honorable Anthony G. Brown  
The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
The Honorable David Trone  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation:

As we prepare to mark the National Day of Racial Healing on January 19, 2021, we write to express the strong support of University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) for a concurrent resolution calling for the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT), and our hope that you will cosponsor this legislation when it is reintroduced during the 117th Congress.

UMBC is committed to inclusive excellence and social justice. We have a long history of scholarship and teaching on inequality, race, and civic engagement, and provide our students opportunities to put what they learn into action through applied learning, including service-learning projects in our neighboring communities. Effective service-learning and community engagement initiatives require equal parts truth, racial healing, and transformation. Through these important efforts, we forge deep relationships, lay the groundwork to transform broken systems, and bridge divides to transform communities for our children and future generations.

As part of this effort, in 2017 the University partnered with the Association of American Colleges and Universities to become one of the first [Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation \(TRHT\) Campus Centers](#) in the country. [Our TRHT Campus Center grant](#) is helping our campus define and explore what it means to become an anti-racist organization that more fully lives our commitment to inclusive excellence and social

justice. In addition, in June 2020, UMBC formed an Inclusion Council to bring together faculty, staff, students, and alumni to help address issues of equity and inclusion at UMBC.

In September 2020, UMBC hosted our first Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Town Hall, during which more than 300 community members learned about our THRT Campus Center and our campus's connection to a national framework addressing race equity. During the session, representatives from our THRT Campus Center discussed the concurrent resolution introduced during the 116th Congress by Representative Barbara Lee and Senator Cory Booker ([H.Con.Res. 100](#) and [S.Con.Res. 50](#)) to establish a U.S. Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation. The resolution aligns with the goals of UMBC's TRHT Campus Center and UMBC's long-standing commitment to social justice by:

- Encouraging the acknowledgement of centuries of oppression of people of color;
- Stressing the importance of telling the stories of people of color and their experiences in this country, which will restore the humanity stripped away by structural racism; and
- Moving toward the systemic change which is needed to achieve equity.

Consistent with UMBC's commitment to community input and shared governance, town hall attendees participated in a straw poll where they unanimously expressed support for this resolution.

UMBC leadership and shared governance organizations are proud of the grassroots efforts of our students to raise awareness of this important legislation through the town hall and a planned letter-writing campaign to mark the National Day of Racial Healing, which promotes racial healing and equity through collective action. As a result of their efforts, on behalf of the UMBC community, we hope you will support this concurrent resolution when it is reintroduced during the 117th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

*President Freeman Hrabowski*

*Provost Philip Rous*

*Mehrshad Devin, President, Student Government Association*

*Samantha Fries, Vice President, Graduate Student Association*

*Bobby Lubaszewski, President, Professional Staff Senate*

*Orianne Smith, President, Faculty Senate*

*Melody Wright, President, Non-Exempt Staff Senate*