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United States Senate

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January 26, 2021

Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III
President
Office of the President
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

Dear President Hrabowski: *Freeman*

Thank you for the letter from you and other University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) campus leaders expressing support for the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT). I appreciate UMBC's long standing commitment to educational equity to increase educational opportunities for students of all backgrounds that has culminated in UMBC being named one of the first TRHT Campus Centers in the country. As your United States Senator, I'm proud to support your efforts to do the necessary work to move our country forward towards a more perfect union that is committed to social justice.

As you are aware, Senator Cory Booker has introduced resolution to create such a Commission to acknowledge and examine the systemic racism that has disenfranchised Black Americans throughout United States history and the racial inequities that persist today. I understand that Senator Booker intends to reintroduce this legislation early in the new Congress and will keep your support at the forefront of my mind as I consider cosponsoring the resolution. Last year, I joined Senator Booker as a cosponsor of his legislation to establish a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans. Pursuing racial justice is among my highest priorities in the new Congress. Among other means to that end, I look forward to working toward the passage of my two voting rights bills, the Democracy Restoration Act and Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act, and my two police reform bills, the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act and the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act.

Democracy is not easy and cannot defend itself. Looking ahead, we must keep in mind the words of the great Marylander, Frederick Douglass, who said: "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." There is no more important struggle in life than fighting for social justice in every facet of our lives. I appreciate the collective effort of the UMBC community to advocate on behalf of this critical issue.

Thank you again for sharing your support of the US Commission on TRHT. I will continue to fight on behalf of the interests of the UMBC community and for our shared American values of equality, fairness and progress that have made our institutions of higher education the envy of the world. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future regarding this or any other matter of interest to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben', is positioned above the printed name.

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

cc: Provost Dr. Philip Rous
UMBC Student Government Association President Mehrshad Devin
UMBC Graduate Student Association Vice President Samantha Fries
UMBC Professional Staff Senate President Bobby Lubaszewski
UMBC Faculty Senate President Dr. Orienne Smith
UMBC Non-Exempt Staff Senate President Melody Wright