



State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

Respect...Integrity...Effective Communication

MCCR Executive Director Cleveland L. Horton II Statement on Challenges to our Civil & Human Rights

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In the face of a rapidly shifting national landscape, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) remains steadfast in its mission to protect and promote the civil rights of all Marylanders. Recent executive orders issued by the current administration have created uncertainty and concern for many communities. Today, MCCR's Executive Director, Cleveland L. Horton II, issued the following statement to reassure the People of Maryland that our State remains a beacon of equity, inclusion, and justice:

“At the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, our mandate is clear: to ensure that every individual, regardless of race, religion, national origin, gender identity, disability, or any other protected class, is treated with dignity, respect, and fairness under the law. Recent federal executive actions have left many feeling vulnerable, threatened, and uncertain about the future of their rights. To those individuals, I want to make one thing abundantly clear — MCCR stands with you.

No executive order, no matter how sweeping, can erode the unshakable foundation of civil rights protections enshrined in our state laws and upheld by this agency. Marylanders should rest assured that MCCR is equipped, prepared, and resolved to challenge any attempts to undermine the progress we have fought so hard to achieve.

We recognize that these times are challenging, and many may feel powerless. But I assure you, your voice matters, your rights matter, and your humanity matters. MCCR will continue to champion the rights of every Marylander, ensuring that this great state remains a safe, welcoming, and equitable place for all who call it home.

To those who may feel silenced or forgotten: know that you are seen, you are heard, and you are valued. And to those who wish to divide us or turn back the clock on progress, let this serve as a reminder — we are united, resolute, and determined to protect the civil rights of everyone in Maryland.”

MCCR invites every Marylander to join us in this fight. Through education, advocacy, and enforcement, we will stand as a powerful force for good, ensuring that Maryland remains a leader in upholding the principles of fairness and equality for generations to come.

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

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