

Taking Action: Sample Letter in Support of Reparations Legislation

I am writing to let you know of my strong support of legislation that would establish a federal commission to study proposals of reparation for the descendants of enslaved African people in the United States. Congressman John Conyers (D-MI) has re-introduced this legislation in the House of Representatives (H.R. 40).

This legislation is long overdue, and should be put into place this year. My hope is that as the Congress gets underway, that you will sign on to this bill as a co-sponsor and do all that you can to ensure its enactment.

This legislation is an important first step in acknowledging the inherent cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery as practiced in the United States, and would help millions of people begin to heal the subsequent emotional wounds that have been festering for centuries. In confronting the ugly legacy of enslavement, the commission created by H.R. 40 would examine the impact slavery has had on the racial and economic inequalities still suffered today.

The commission would also be charged with reviewing reparation proposals to help people of African heritage in America to regain some of the stature stripped of their ancestors lost through no fault of their own and making recommendations on how we can best heal these wounds.

I hope that you will join me in strong support of H.R. 40 as well as any companion bill in the Senate. Please let me know your thoughts on this legislation, as well as what you intend to do to see that it is enacted in the Congress, and what I may do to help.

Sincerely,