



February 27, 2020

Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health & Environmental Committee
Maryland State Senate
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

Dear Chairman Pinsky and the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture is in FAVORABLE SUPPORT of SB76. We are in support of the establishment of Maryland Emancipation Day as a Legal Holiday in the State of Maryland.

During the period of the Civil War, Maryland was an Union state exempt from President Lincoln's executive order known as the Emancipation Proclamation, which went into effect in 1863 and declared all enslaved people in Southern states to be free. While the Emancipation Proclamation did not specifically relate to Maryland, a border state, the issue of slavery was finally confronted by the new Maryland Constitution of 1864 which the state adopted late in that year. When the Unionists' Convention met at Annapolis in April 1864, Article 24 of the constitution at last outlawed the practice of slavery.

Again, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture is in FAVORABLE SUPPORT of SB76, which will establish Maryland Emancipation Day as a Legal Holiday in the State of Maryland.

Best,


Jacqueline Copeland
Executive Director