



**MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE**

March 14, 2024

**HB 448
Korean American Day**

House Health & Government Operations Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) offers this testimony in support of House Bill 448. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 448 would require the Governor to annually proclaim January 13st as Korean American Day. This legislation would help recognize and celebrate the contributions of Korean Americans to the rich tapestry of State's cultural, social, and economic life.

The diversity of cultures and peoples reflects the beauty of God's creation. Throughout history, individuals of Korean descent have played vital roles in shaping the world and enriching our shared heritage. As we seek to commemorate Korean American Day, we honor the sacrifices, achievements, and contributions of Korean Americans, and we renew our commitment to fostering mutual understanding, respect, and solidarity among all members of our society.

The proclamation of Korean American Day presents an opportunity for educational and cultural organizations to celebrate the rich heritage and traditions of Korean Americans through appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. It is a time to promote greater awareness and understanding of Korean culture, history, and contributions, fostering a spirit of unity, and diversity in our communities. It will also be a time to recognize the important contributions of our Korean Catholic community and parishes here in Maryland.

The MCC appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 448.

