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## Senate Bill 165 Korean American Day Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee March 13, 2025 FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan; I am the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. I am honored to submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 165, which seeks to establish January 13th as Korean American Day in the state of Maryland. This legislation is a significant step toward recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contributions of Korean Americans to our state's rich cultural, social, and economic fabric.

AARP Maryland represents over 800,000 members in the state, many of whom are of Asian American decent. Our organization is dedicated to advocating for the well-being and quality of life of all older adults, and we believe that acknowledging the diverse heritage and contributions of our community members is essential to fostering a more inclusive and vibrant society.

Korean Americans have a long and storied history in Maryland, marked by their resilience, hard work, and dedication to their families and communities. From small business owners to educators, healthcare professionals, and public servants, Korean Americans have played a vital role in shaping the state's development and progress. Their cultural traditions, values, and achievements have enriched our shared heritage and strengthened the bonds that unite us as Marylanders.

Senate Bill 165 not only honors the legacy of Korean Americans but also provides an opportunity for all Maryland residents to learn about and appreciate the rich history and cultural contributions of this community. By designating January 13th as Korean American Day, we can promote greater understanding, respect, and solidarity among all members of our society.

AARP Maryland wholeheartedly supports this legislation and urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass Senate Bill 165. We believe that recognizing Korean American Day will serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of diversity and inclusion in our state and will inspire future generations to continue building a more equitable and harmonious society.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. We look forward to celebrating Korean American Day in Maryland and honoring the contributions of Korean Americans to our great state. For follow up or questions, please feel free to contact me at <a href="mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org">tbresnahan@aarp.org</a> or by calling 410-302-8451.