



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **Support:** SB 165 – Korean American Day

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to write in support of Senate Bill 165, which would require the Governor to annually proclaim January 13 as Korean American Day, and I urge educational and cultural organizations to observe Korean American Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Each year, Howard County observes January 13 as Korean American day to mark the years since the first Korean Immigrants came to the United States in 1903. Howard County is home to more than 15,000 Korean-Americans who enrich our businesses, medicine, law, academia, government, arts, literature, and other sectors. We are proud to be home to hundreds of Korean-American businesses that not only play a vital role in our economy, but enhance the diversity of our communities and support our neighbors. When Howard County has faced challenges, such as the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, Howard County's Korean-American community have served as pivotal partners offering support, donation, and communications help. Furthermore, Howard County has collaborated with Korean-American businesses to promote and establish Ellicott City's Koreatown, a five-mile stretch along Route 40 that is home to 170 Korean Businesses and allows visitors to learn more about our neighbors and their heritage.

Today, it is more important than ever to highlight, honor, and support the diversity that makes Maryland great. From entrepreneurship to cultural leadership, Korean Americans contribute to our communities every day, their impact is woven into the Maryland's fabric. As County Executive, I've been honored to join in our County's annual Korean American Day ceremonies. I strongly encourage the committee's consideration and support of this bill to make sure the state joins in honoring this critical community in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive