

SB 165 Korean American DAy.pdf

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Testimony in Support of SB165

Korean American Day

**** Favorable ****

**To: Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair,
and members of the Education, Energy and The Environment Committee**

**From: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, co-chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy
Network, Diocese of Maryland**

Date: March 13. 2025

Every January 13th, Korean American Day in other states honors the rich heritage and contributions of Korean Americans to the United States. This date marks the arrival of the first Korean immigrants in 1903, when 102 pioneers landed in Hawaii to work on sugar plantations. January 13th is known as Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day) and is the first day of the Korean lunar calendar and the most celebrated traditional holiday in Korea. In establishing this day, we will be taking another step toward honoring the contributions of all Americans regardless of where they came from. The Episcopal Diocese supports this Bill because it recognizes the role of Korean Americans in our history and accordingly respects their dignity as children of God.

We respectfully request a favorable vote on SB 165.

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HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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March 13, 2025

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

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Uploaded by: Tammy Bresnahan

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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 tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

