## **TESTIMONY**

**To:** The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckhardt

**From:** Mr. Johnny M. Tillery, Private Citizen

Bill: Senate Bill Commemorative Days – Maryland Voting Equity Reform Days

**Hearing:** March 5, 2020

**Position:** Support for Senate Bill 464 Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day

Dear Senator, Eckhardt:

I am writing this letter in support of The Senate Bill 464 Commemorative Days – Maryland Voting Equity Reform Days. The bill would be an instrument that would recognize North Dorchester County as the Birthplace for Maryland Voter Reform. To be celebrated annually, on behalf of The Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day. It would bring a sense of pride to the community of Dorchester County to re-ignite the bravery of the 10 bold men that stood against the disparity in The Maryland Constitution. By their efforts The Maryland Constitution was amended in 1986. Because the previous one disenfranchised minority and rural citizens regarding fair voting rights. The amendment to the Constitution provided voting equity to all citizens of the counties in Maryland. And to symbolized it, a monument was created name The Historical Freedom Shrine. Therefore, I support the passing of the bill to acknowledge the phrase on the base of the forty-thousand-pound blue granite monument "Lest we forget". There is no better way to do that than have an annual *Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day*.

Sincerely,

Mr. Johnny M. Tillery, Private Citizen