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Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Election Law Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Alice Cain
Before the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

In Support of HJ9
Democracy Day

Chair Healey, Vice Chair Holmes, and Members of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HJ9. This resolution designates December 23rd as Democracy Day, commemorating an incredible moment in American history that took place in our State House.

On December 23, 1783, despite pressure from supporters to become king, George Washington stood before the Continental Congress, relinquished power, and stepped aside. Many people were stunned by his decision to resign his commission as Commander-in-Chief rather than consolidate his power. He had been granted powers similar to a dictator's during the Revolutionary War, but he turned that power back to the people, strengthened the new country, and modeled what real leadership looks like.

Washington's resignation ushered in the era of American democracy, and set our nation on a path of civil government "of, by and for the people."

I grew up in Maryland and have lived here most of my life. Not until Freshman Orientation did I learn of this incredible moment in our nation's history—one that happened right here in the State House. I hope Democracy Day will ensure more Marylanders know of this significant event in American history and will be inspired to participate more actively in our democracy.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.