



Town of Upper Marlboro

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March 24, 2022

Senator Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

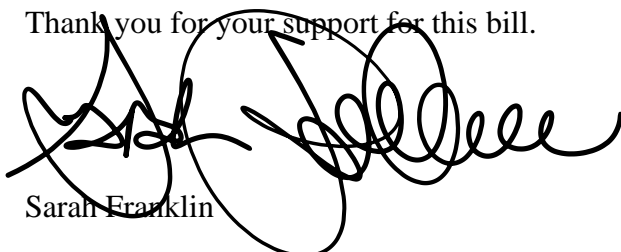
Delegate Chair Pinsky and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs ,

I am writing to express the Town of Upper Marlboro's Support for House Bill 227, establishing "Juneteenth National Independence Day" as a State legal and employee holiday. This bill would recognize the independence of all members of our Nation and create time when all residents can feel joy for freedom.

Slavery was abolished in Maryland on November 1, 1864. This is prior to June 19, 1865 when residents, formerly two groups—enslaved and free, were informed that they were all free. It is unifying to the Country to have one day to celebrate true freedom for our Nation together. Juneteenth commemorates the point at which abolition of slavery became real for enslaved African Americans. The celebration of Juneteenth is also the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

June 19th is as important a holiday as July 4th, and should be treated as such. While one celebrates the independence of one nation from another, the other celebrates the independence of a nation from the institution of slavery. We, as a nation, continue to struggle to grapple with true equality. A celebration of freedom brings us closer to the goal of creating a truly united country where all are equal in freedom.

Thank you for your support for this bill.



Sarah Franklin