



Secular Maryland

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March 10, 2022

**SB 470 - OPPOSE**

General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Dashain Day

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice -Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

The Secular Coalition for Maryland supports government neutrality between competing religious beliefs including between religious beliefs and anti-religious beliefs more generally. The best way to protect the liberty of religious minorities to exercise their religious beliefs is for the government to refrain from exhibiting favoritism. One way to avoid bias between religions and between religious and anti-religious perspectives is to commentate every religious and anti-religious event throughout the world annually. That is impractical. Accordingly, it is a step in the wrong direction to add a religiously motivated event to the holidays commemorated each year as proposed by this bill. Let's instead go in the other direction and adopt a government policy of not passing laws to commemorate any of the many different religiously motivated events held within or outside the United States.

Respectfully,  
Mathew Goldstein  
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