

**Maryland Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**March 24, 2022**  
**HB227 - SUPPORT**

*Dear Chairman Paul Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,*

I am writing **in support** today of House Bill 227 which would establish Juneteenth National Independence Day as a State Legal Holiday and a State employee holiday in Maryland.

Juneteenth is important because it commemorates a day when the abolition of slavery became a reality for many Americans. Juneteenth marks the nation's second Independence Day and should be recognized as a significant milestone in this country's history.

We have seen our federal government recognize and observe Juneteenth as a Federal holiday, and it seems only appropriate that the State follow suit.

I hope that you will support this measure and that Maryland will soon recognize Juneteenth as a holiday that we can commemorate and celebrate the abolition of slavery in America.

With Regards,

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