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STATE OF MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANTHONY G. BROWN

Attorney General

February 27, 2025

TO: The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk

Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark

Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 752 – Commission on State and Local Government Real

Property Bearing Confederate Names-Support

The Office of the Attorney General writes to express our support for **House Bill 752** – Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names. **House Bill 752** prohibits any political subdivision from naming real property (e.g. streets, buildings, parks, subdivisions) after any person who voluntarily served in the Confederate States of America.

Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown, himself an Army veteran, has "long maintained that traitorous men who fought to preserve the institution of slavery and defend white supremacy do not deserve to be honored by our military, and it is long past time their names were removed from places of reverence," such as military forts and institutions. Similarly, here, Maryland State or political subdivisions should be precluded from lionizing Confederate soldiers and sympathizers by naming public properties after them.

In 2022, then-Congressman Brown noted, "I learned to fly helicopters at Ft. Rucker. I deployed to Iraq from Ft. Bragg, and I earned my jump wings at Ft. Benning. All these bases honored men who wouldn't want me or other Black Americans serving in uniform, let alone in Congress." Similarly, Marylanders shouldn't have to go about their daily business on streets or in buildings, parks, or subdivisions named after Confederate soldiers.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on **House Bill 752**.