

Elena Brewer

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Testimony on HB 668
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Good afternoon, my name is Elena Brewer, I am a wife and mother of 3, residing in California, MD. As a naturalized citizen, born and raised in the Republic of Moldova, former USSR, I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 668 and make my voice heard.

The Soviet Union collapsed when I was only 10 years old, yet to this day, more than 3 decades later, my extended family, my native country, my people, still suffer the consequences of this atrocious regime that destroyed our cultural identity and our rich Christian heritage. The communist regime erased Moldova's history and destroyed our dreams of prosperity; it took away our freedoms, persecuted all Christians, sent our people to Siberian labor camps, and indoctrinated generations through Leninist and Stalinist ideologies. In the name of "equity" generations were doomed to a life of deep poverty and hundreds of thousands were massacred.

My own family suffered greatly because of the communist regime. My great-grandparents, a land-owning family, lost all their property and barely survived the famine of 1948, an artificial famine created by the Stalinist regime. Until their death, my grandparents rarely spoke of their childhood memories, and were always eerily quiet anytime the subject of Stalin, famine, Bolsheviks, or war came up. I still remember the pain in their eyes! I still remember the pain in my father's eyes anytime he spoke of helping raise his own 7 siblings in deep poverty during the 1960s. These were all lives shattered by communism! Let's honor their memory!