



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 13, 2025

Delegate Joseline Pena- Melnyk  
Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
**HB 668** Victims of Communism Memorial Day

**FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Pena- Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB668 which is legislation to designate November 7 as Victims of Communism Memorial Day in Maryland. This important initiative offers an opportunity to honor the millions who suffered under oppressive communist regimes and to educate future generations about the profound consequences of such ideologies.

Throughout history, communist regimes have been responsible for immense human suffering, including political purges, forced famines, labor camps, and the suppression of basic freedoms. Establishing this day of remembrance will ensure we honor the lives lost and acknowledge the resilience of those who endured these hardships.

President Bill Clinton understood the importance of this remembrance, and in 1993 he authorized a memorial to be built in Washington D.C. The memorial was dedicated by President George W. Bush on June 12, 2007, the 20th anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's Brandenburg Gate speech. By joining the global effort to remember these atrocities, Maryland can demonstrate its commitment to ensuring such tragedies are neither forgotten nor repeated.

This legislation is about more than reflecting on the past; it is a commitment to upholding the values of human rights, freedom, and democracy. Designating this day creates an opportunity to foster greater understanding of the dangers posed by totalitarian ideologies and reinforces the importance of liberty. It serves as a vital educational moment and a reminder of the enduring strength of the human spirit in the face of oppression.

I urge you to support this legislation as a reflection of Maryland's dedication to justice and freedom. By establishing November 7 as Victims of Communism Memorial Day, we ensure the stories of those who suffered are preserved and their sacrifices remembered.

For these reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Morgan,  
Delegate