

Dear Senators and Delegates:

My name is Kui Zhao, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing to express my support for recognizing Korean American Day in both Howard County and the State of Maryland, as proposed in SB0627 and HB0770.

Each year on January 13th, we honor the first Korean immigrants who arrived in 1903 and celebrate more than a century of perseverance, cultural richness, and community-building. As we approach the 123rd anniversary in 2026, this recognition remains deeply meaningful.

Howard County is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Korean American communities in the state, with an officially estimated 13,389 Koreans as of 2024. Their contributions to local business, culture, and civic life are evident throughout the county, including the thriving Koreatown in Ellicott City.

County leaders, including Executive Calvin Ball, have long supported this community through annual ceremonies and proclamations, alongside organizations such as the League of Korean Americans of Maryland.

Recognizing Korean American Day affirms our shared values, celebrates our diversity, and honors the generations who have helped shape Howard County into the inclusive community it is today.

Sincerely,

*Kui Zhao*

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