The Honorable Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 0770 – Korean American Day

Dear Honorable Delegates,

My name is Seojin Oh. I am a sophomore at Eastern Technical High School, and I am a 1.5 generation Korean American. I am also a member of the League of Korean Americans (LOKA). I write in strong support of HB0770 to establish January 13th as Korean American Day in Maryland.

As a 1.5 generation Korean American, this bill is very relevant to me and so many people around me. 1.5 generation Korean Americans are the individuals who bridge the gap between the first-generation (immigrant parents) and the second-generation (born in the U.S.). Due to this circumstance, I have experienced a blend of both Korean and American culture and have a bicultural upbringing that brings me very close to this bill.

As a daughter of a true first-generation Korean American, I have grown up seeing the hard and effortful work that each individual and group puts into their life in America. In the Korea Towns, and Asian markets I am able to see not only my parents as a hardworking contributor, but all the other Korean Americans who have come to join and form a community of resilience, and dedication for a better future.

Korean American day recognizes 102 people who immigrated to Hawaii on January 13, 1903. It helps us and others to highlight their hard work in hopes to form a better future for their family, which has now been continued up till now, with 50,000 Korean Americans in Maryland alone and with over 2 million Korean Americans in the United States. This represents my family, friends, and community who sacrifice their lives to build a future for the next generations to come. HB0770 supports the families that work tirelessly, and reminds them that their efforts matter.

For the FAMILY. Not just family biologically, but culturally, and through shared experiences, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB0770.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Seojin Oh