



Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 661

General Provisions – Commemorative Months – Muslim American Heritage and Jewish American Heritage
Months

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

March 17, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee,

We Are Casa (formerly, “CASA”) is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of HB 661–General Provisions – Commemorative Months – Muslim American Heritage and 2 Jewish American Heritage Months.**

We Are CASA is a national organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities.

With a membership of over 189,000 members, We Are CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. For nearly forty years, We Are CASA has employed grassroots community organizing to bring our communities closer together and fight for justice, while simultaneously providing vital services to communities across the state and beyond.

HB 661 would honor Muslim American and Jewish American residents by proclaiming the month of January as Muslim American Heritage Month and the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month in recognition of the invaluable contributions that both communities have made to our state and nation.

In Maryland, we believe in caring for one another and honoring the dignity of all residents by standing against hate.

HB 661 raises awareness about the rich cultural, historical, and social contributions of both Muslim and Jewish Americans, promoting a better understanding of their experiences and values while promoting unity and solidarity against harmful stereotypes. By recognizing and honoring the contributions of Muslim and Jewish Americans, SB 661 not only promotes understanding and unity but also stands as a firm rejection of discrimination and hate.

We Are CASA is proud to respectfully request a favorable report on HB 661- General Provisions – Commemorative Months – Muslim American Heritage and Jewish American Heritage Months.