



### **Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1327**

Key Bridge Heroes Commemoration Day and Memorial Tribute Ceremony  
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 1327– Key Bridge Heroes Commemoration Day and Memorial Tribute Ceremony**.

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.

In the early hours of March 26, 2024, six men went to work. They were filling potholes on Interstate 695, doing the quiet, unglamorous labor that keeps Maryland's infrastructure safe for the millions who drive it without a second thought. At 1:28 a.m., the container ship Dali — having lost all power and propulsion — struck a support column of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. In seconds, the bridge fell. Six of those eight workers plunged into the dark, 47-degree waters of the Patapsco River and did not come home.

Their names deserve to be spoken aloud and commemorated by Maryland for their service to the state: **Dorlian Ronial Castillo Cabrera**, 26, of Dundalk, from Guatemala; **Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes**, 35, of Baltimore, from Mexico; **Carlos Daniel Hernandez Estrella**, 24, from Mexico; **Jose Mynor Lopez**, 35, from Guatemala; **Maynor Yasir Suazo Sandoval**, 38, from Honduras and **Miguel Angel Luna Gonzalez**, 49, of Glen Burnie, from El Salvador — a husband, small business co-owner, father of three, and Maryland resident of nearly 20 years. They were not strangers; they were our neighbors, part of our community. They came to this country with dreams of a better future. These men had families waiting for them. Since then, their families have been seeking justice by holding wrongdoers, like the ship company Ocean Grace Private, accountable for the incident; advocating for improved work crew standards and training, and OSHA protections.

Maryland must join them in honoring their loved one. Maryland has a long tradition of honoring those who sacrifice in service to others. We honor our fallen soldiers. We honor our first responders. We must now honor the essential workers — the builders, the repairers, the maintainers — who keep this state moving. Establishing March 26 as Key Bridge Heroes Commemoration Day, with an annual public ceremony, would:

- ensure these six men are never forgotten;
- call Maryland's conscience toward the immigrant workforce that builds and sustains our infrastructure;
- provide grieving families and a grieving city with a permanent, dignified occasion for collective remembrance.

We Are CASA stands with the families of the Fallen Key Bridge Heroes and strongly supports HB 1327 in marking March 26 as the Key Bridge Heroes Commemoration Day in recognition of their loved ones' service and sacrifice.

**We Are CASA urges a favorable report on HB 1327.**