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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Delegate Melissa Wells
Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee

**HB 751– Victims of Communism Memorial Day
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wells and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 751, legislation to designate November 7th as the “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 and individual liberty. 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 respectfully request a **favorable report** on HB 751.

Thank you,

Matt Morgan
Delegate