

Nathan Rwomushana, Engineer  
6254 Seton Hills Lane, Gwynn Oak, MD 21207 (Baltimore County)  
nathan.rwomushana@yahoo.com  
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The Honorable Members of the House Committee,  
Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, MD 21401

**House Bill 524 – Establishing African Heritage Month in Maryland.**

Hearing Date: March 17, 2026 at 1:00 Pm.

The Chairperson and Honorable Members of the Committee,

**Re: My Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 524 – Establishing African Heritage Month in Maryland.**

My name is Nathan Rwomushana, currently a resident of Maryland, Legislative District 44B, CONG-7, COUN-4. I am father, husband and East African Immigrant Community Organizer, and currently a proud resident of Maryland.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the sponsors (Delegate Bernice Mireku-North and her Colleagues) of this House Bill 524, which, if passed by the Honorable Members of the Committee and General Assembly, would officially designate September the African Heritage Month.

As minority immigrants in Maryland, African communities constitute a major economic and cultural force in the state.

**Culture**

A professor at my graduate school told our class that when you lose culture, you lose identity. Although we have integrated into the United States and now enjoy rights of Citizens, maintaining our culture makes us a stronger community with identity. So, the African Heritage month will further strengthen our communities.

**Economic**

We, African-born immigrants, together with our children (first generation) represent a major economic force for growth in Maryland in particular and the United States at large. We provide skilled work force, pay taxes and support business growth, to mention but a few.

I would like to extend a vote of thanks to the General Assembly for considering this Bill that will further strengthen the sense of belongingness to our African immigrant community/communities.

Finally, I would like to argue Maryland General Assembly to consider and pass this House Bill 524 and Establish African Heritage Month, which will enhance our inclusiveness in the state and country. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

I respectfully submit,

Nathan Rwomushana, Engineer.