



Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 770
Korean American Day
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 770, Korean American Day.**

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.

As Maryland honors its diverse and rich heritage, HB 770 would officially proclaim January 13th as Korean American Day. In 2003, President George W. Bush formally proclaimed January 13 a day of national recognition, marking the centennial of that first arrival. In 2005, the United States Congress affirmed the observance, and since then, states and municipalities across the nation have passed resolutions and legislation making Korean American Day an official annual commemoration. With at least three states - California, Massachusetts, and Michigan- and several U.S. municipalities celebrating January 13th as Korean American Day, Maryland would join in celebrating and honoring the first 102 Korean immigrants to the United States on January 13, 1903, in Hawaii.

With nearly 60,000 Korean Marylanders, the third-largest Korean American metro area in the U.S., and with deep community roots in Baltimore, Howard County, Ellicott City, and Montgomery County, HB 770 would honor the history, culture, and contributions of Korean Americans in Maryland and honor their resilience.¹

We Are CASA is proud to support HB 770 and stand with Maryland’s Korean American community in respectfully requesting a favorable report on HB 770.

¹ <https://iir.gmu.edu/immigrant-stories-overview/korea/korea-analysis>