



March 12, 2026

**In support of HB661: General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Muslim American Heritage and Jewish American Heritage Months**

The Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies (ICJS) submits this written testimony in favor of HB661, which requires the Governor to annually proclaim the month of January as Muslim-American Heritage Month and the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

As an organization whose mission holds that religious difference is a powerful force for good, we are dedicated to encouraging learning and community-building with our neighbors across all religions. Establishing dedicated months each year that remind all Marylanders of the religious differences in our communities and thereby offer opportunities for learning and relationship-building, will be a welcome and beneficial asset in moving towards seeing religious difference as a force for good.

We encourage a favorable report on HB661. Thank you.