

SB25 Dr. Barham Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Eckardt, Adelaide

Position: FAV

To: The Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chairperson
Education, Health and Environmental Matter Committee

From: Dr. Carl S. Barham, Co- Leader Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team

Re: Support for Senate Bill 25 Commemorative Days Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day

Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021

I am speaking on behalf of the Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team located in Dorchester County.

Permit me to highlight and to share with you six reasons why we strongly support Senate Bill 25.

- It confirms that the Right to Vote is a core value guaranteed to us by the Constitution. Voting is the one opportunity that make us equal as citizens. It is our great equalizer in a democratic society. Exercising this right will improve the quality of life for many citizens.
- It can serve as a reminder and motivator during election time for us to reconnect and dedicate ourselves in exercising the power of our vote.
- It provides a model how ten brave bold men, eight white and two African American worked together to improve through the political process ,how to make our county and state a better place to live.
- It represents a rich legacy that we can pass on to our children on how we fought for fairness and equal access for voting rights.
- It memorializes the work of ten men by having erected in their honor in 1987, a 20,000 pound blue granite monument in Dorchester County.

- It confirms that amending the Maryland Constitution in 1986 by changing from a system of At Large Voting to District Voting, continue to increase racial minorities leadership and participation at the local , state and the federal level in the work force.

Finally, you are encouraged to visit Dorchester County to see and learn about this historical memorial. The monument is officially called **Freedom From Political Persecution and Tyranny**. However, it is more popularly known as the **Historical Freedom Shrine**.

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Testimony for Senate Bill 25
Commemorative Days - Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day
March 11, 2021

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 25 - Commemorative Days - Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day, which designates the fourth Tuesday in October as a commemorative day in celebration of voting reform in Maryland.

Prior to 1986, county commissioners and council members were elected through at-large voting, which largely disenfranchised minority and rural populations. In 1986, the Maryland Constitution was amended to remove this requirement, with citizens from northern Dorchester County leading the effort including:

1. George C. Jones,
2. Don W. Bradley,
3. Richard Harding,
4. Edward Conway,
5. Leon Medford,
6. Charles F. Hurley Sr,
7. Oliver Harding,
8. William Harding,
9. William Reid,
10. William O. Corkan
11. Gregory Meekins.

Senate Bill 25 celebrates and commemorates the efforts of these men. In addition, this bill celebrates voting equity for minority and rural citizens across Maryland. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 25.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt

NFINK-SB0025Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Fink, Nelda

Position: UNF

Written Testimony OPPOSING SB 025 Commemorative Voting Equity Reform Day
Nelda Fink, 8372 Norwood Dr, Millersville
MD District 32

We haven't reach the goal yet of Voting REFORM! And there is no need to include equality or equity into the reform. This is a blatant misplay on words. Please oppose this bill.

Please do not pass this bill!

I oppose it completely!

Sincerely,

Nelda Fink

OPPOSING SB 025 Commemorative Voting Equity Reform Day