

March 12, 2021

Health and Government Operations Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **HB0448**

**State Government - Legal and Employee Holiday –  
Juneteenth National Freedom Day**

Hearing Date: March 16, 2021 at 1:30 pm

**SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk,  
and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I am the Co-President of the law firm of Paley, Rothman, Goldstein, Rosenberg, Eig & Cooper, Chartered (“Paley Rothman”). It is with great enthusiasm that I write to share Paley Rothman’s strong support of HB0448 in designating June 19<sup>th</sup> as “Juneteenth National Freedom Day” and making this important date a Maryland State legal and employee holiday.

As one of the largest law firms native to Maryland, our firm consists of 40 attorneys and employs 78 people in Maryland. Paley Rothman is an institution in Maryland with nearly half a century of history, and we are a proud Maryland corporation. We employ a diverse workforce that includes women and men of color in positions of leadership.

As a law firm and as a Maryland business that prides itself on being a leader in embracing and celebrating diversity and supporting opportunities for inclusiveness, Paley Rothman has already been engaged in the process of making Juneteenth a holiday in our offices. African-Americans in Maryland have overcome tremendous barriers to help our State in its ongoing effort to realize its promise of justice and opportunity for all. And their stories are an essential part of our shared story and history in Maryland – one that is important for us all to teach and learn. Adopting Juneteenth as a holiday is a potent opportunity to make a clear statement to our African-American colleagues, employees, and clients: A message that we very much value them. Maryland has the opportunity to send that message to all African-American Marylanders now, and it should do so.

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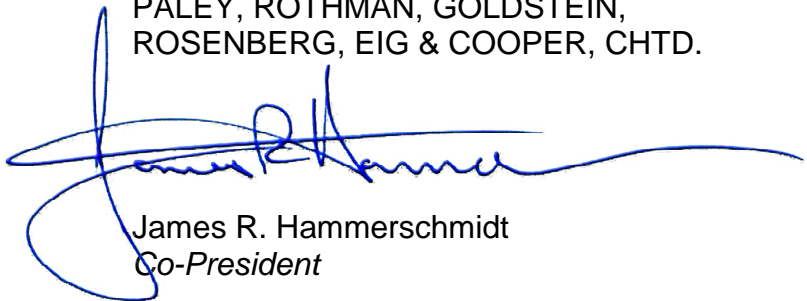
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In short, Marylanders will benefit from the establishment of Juneteenth National Freedom Day as a legal and employee holiday. As a Maryland employer and as a law firm committed to justice and equity, we stand in favor of this benefit for our employees and our community. And we would be proud of Maryland for joining other jurisdictions in establishing Juneteenth as a legal and employee holiday. We encourage other Maryland law firms and employers to join us in supporting this worthy cause.

For the reasons stated above, Paley Rothman strongly urges this Committee to vote FAVORABLY on Bill no. HB0448 (State Government - Legal and Employee Holiday – Juneteenth National Freedom Day).

Respectfully Submitted,

PALEY, ROTHMAN, GOLDSTEIN,  
ROSENBERG, EIG & COOPER, CHTD.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James R. Hammerschmidt", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James R. Hammerschmidt  
*Co-President*