

March 12, 2021

Health & Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 448 Juneteenth

Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chairman

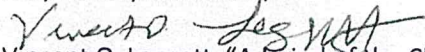
My name is Vincent O. Leggett, Founder and President of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, (BOCF) The BOCF is an educational, historical and cultural preservation organization which documents the contributions of African Americans in the maritime and seafood related industries. Our great state was founded on the shores of this noble bay and the Chesapeake and its many tributaries served as a water of hope and despair for enslaved Africans in the Americas. This would be a fitting tribute to those who fought and died for freedom.

I am in favor of the passage of House Bill 448, which would establish June 19 as Juneteenth National Freedom Day as a State legal holiday and State employee holiday.

The passage of House Bill 448, sponsored by Delegate Andrea Harrison, would be a mammoth display of progress for the state of Maryland. State holidays are a statement of dates we think are important to all people. Making Juneteenth a state holiday raises its significance and will help educate Marylanders on the meaning of Juneteenth in the history of our country and great state.

In closing, we are requesting a favorable vote from this committee.

Respectfully submitted,


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cc: Honorable Delegate Andrea Harrison