



# HOWARD COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Scott B Markow, Chairperson  
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Bob Ford, Commissioner  
Joan Hash, Commissioner  
Peter Hwang, Commissioner  
Tiffany Releford, Commissioner  
Gabriel Terrasa, Commissioner  
Kui Zhao, Commissioner

October 30, 2022

**VIA EMAIL ([councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov))**

Opel Jones, Council Chair  
Christiana Rigby, Council Vice Chair  
Deb Jung, Council Member  
Liz Walsh, Council Member  
David Yungmann, Council Member

Re: Testimony in Support **CB72-2022**

Dear Council Members:

The Howard County Human Rights Commission strongly supports and urges the passage of CB72-2022, which creates an Asian American and Pacific Islander (“AAPI”) Commission. This bill follows the recommendation of the AAPI Workgroup, which was formed by the County Executive in February 2021. For eighteen months, the AAPI Workgroup explored ways to improve communication with and combat discrimination against members of the AAPI community. In its March 2021 final report, the AAPI Workgroup recommended the formation of a permanent Commission to continue to address the needs of the AAPI community.

Establishing a permanent AAPI Commission will ensure the AAPI community has a consistent voice in the Howard County government and the larger community. The AAPI Commission will be able to continue and build upon the important work of the AAPI Workgroup. This will help promote the interests of the AAPI community in our County. It will also help combat discrimination against members of this community, thus fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. Therefore, we urge the County Council to pass and the County Executive to sign CB72-2022.

Sincerely,

Scott B. Markow, Chair  
Human Rights Commission

cc: Yolanda F. Sonnier, OHRE Administrator; HRC Commission

Howard County Government, Calvin Ball County Executive

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