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In Challenging Times, Leadership Must Rise *October 16, 2025*

In moments of comfort, leadership is easy. In times of calm, it is convenient. But true leadership, the kind that shapes history and moves humanity forward, is revealed only in the face of adversity. And today, we stand in such a time.

The world around us feels uncertain. The noise is loud. The divisions are deep. The path ahead, unclear. Yet, this is precisely when leaders must lead – not with fear or hesitation, but with courage, conviction, and compassion. These are the times that test our humanity, our resolve, and our collective strength.

Leadership is not confined to titles or positions. It is not the exclusive duty of the few. It belongs to each of us. Every voice, every act of kindness, every moment of courage matters. Whether your platform reaches thousands or just one, your voice carries power – the power to inspire, to unite, to heal, and to lead.

Now, more than ever, we must lean into our shared humanity. We must choose *collective over individual*, unity over division, and courage over silence. The times may seem dark, but even in darkness, the smallest light can guide the way forward.

Let us hold steadfast to the one thing that must never waver – our will.

Our will to move forward *together*.

Our will to *speak up* for each other.

Our will to *build a future* worthy of those who will come after us, just as others did for us.

Our will to *stand firm*, even when the forces against justice, equity, and understanding feel relentless.

We cannot cower. We cannot surrender. We must not grow weary. For it is *in these very moments* – the hard ones, the uncertain ones – that our actions and our voices will be remembered.

Let history record that we did not shrink back in the face of challenge, but rose to meet it – united, resolute, and unafraid.

Because this is what leadership looks like.

This is what Maryland looks like.

This is what humanity demands.

“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”

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