

State of Maryland

Commission on Civil Rights

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



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March 9, 2021

Senate Bill 662 – Education – Commission on Multicultural Education – Establishment **POSITION: Support**

Dear Chairperson Pinsky, Vice Chairperson Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

Senate Bill 662 establishes the Commission on Multicultural Education that will conduct a formal review of multicultural representation in existing social studies and history standards and curricula offered in Maryland. This Commission will make recommendations to enhance these programs so they are more accurate and complete in presenting multicultural perspectives, among other mandates. The Commission is required to issue reports by July 1, 2023 and 2024.

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights supports SB662 because it seeks to establish uniform interdisciplinary multicultural lessons and ethnic studies course standards offered to all Maryland students for the duration of their career in Maryland’s school systems. These important topics can be an effective means of building a stronger world view and creating a deeper understanding of different communities that reflect the diversity found within our State. Furthermore, it is MCCR’s belief that a robust multicultural education lays a foundation for a more equitable and inclusive Maryland, thereby making strides toward achieving MCCR’s vision of a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on SB662. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.