



January 23, 2021

Honorable Delegate Anne R. Kaiser
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB11 – Public Schools - African American History-Development of Content Standards and Implementation

Dear Chair Anne R. Kaiser and House Ways and Means Committee Members:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 11 entitled Public Schools - African American History-Development of Content Standards and Implementation. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization.

African Americans have played an integral role in shaping the foundation of our society and country since before its founding. However, African American communities continue to be plagued with many misrepresentations and stereotypes that are inappropriate, harmful and do injustice to their legacy and contributions.

Mandating the development of certain content standards for African American history to be included in the social studies curriculum in an age appropriate way is a vital first step in rectifying the harms that have been perpetuated, and educating children on the injustices against, and the important achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. It will help ensure a more balanced and equitable portrayal of African Americans through the use of proper education.

This bill will create a healthier society that reduces racial injustices against African American communities. We support this bill and respectfully urge your vote in favor of it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Huzzaifa Muhammad
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Council on American-Islamic Relations
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