



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 HB140 – Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education**

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 140 Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization.

The legislation aims to establish a commission that would examine the history, culture, and civics of the United States and specifically Maryland including the contributions of specified minority groups, in order to make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding incorporating programs and standards that accurately reflect the discovery, interpretation, and education of the history, culture, and civics of our state and country.

Under-represented groups have historically been absent or mischaracterized in U.S. classrooms. This bill would task commission members to carve out a plan to incorporate and standardize missing lessons that are vital to capturing a more balanced and factual representation of different communities.

This legislation will create a healthier society that promotes diversity and inclusivity, and more broadly enhances the appreciation and understanding of respective groups' experiences, challenges and contributions. We support this bill and respectfully urge your vote in favor of it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hamza Ewing  
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