



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

HB 11 - Public Schools - African American History - Development of Content Standards and
Implementation

Ways and Means Committee

1/27/2021

SUPPORT

Good afternoon, my name is Molly Goeller and I am 16 years old, and I attend Severna Park High School as a sophomore and today I am representing the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland in Support of HB 11. Teaching black history in schools helps us who may have little or no interaction with African Americans form an accurate understanding of African American history and oppression in the United States. Lack of cultural appreciation leads to prejudice racial intolerance in the United States, around the world and in just everyday life. I believe schools have a responsibility to provide and teach children accurate information which can give us a more educated outlet to make our own decisions and have our own opinions and beliefs. We need to learn about Black history so it will give the correct facts and contributions of African Americans both historically and currently. Right now we have very limited information available in the schools. There are so many people out there who have been deprived of true Black History that isn't included in outdated history books. Providing kids with this education can help amend the and unite us rather than divide like how we are living today.

When we are taught black history in school, we get an understanding of the division of racism in this society and others before. This is a good thing because it already teaches kids that no matter your skin color, you shouldn't be looked at and treated differently. How would you feel, if years and years of your peoples' history and historic events were being left out of history books that the entire American youth use to learn? How would you feel if this lack of education created a larger and larger racial divide? I do not want to live in a world of division anymore. You have the ability to be a part of that solution to make all children feel appreciated and safe. Please support HB11