

Delegate Anne R. Kaiser  
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington  
Delegate C.T. Wilson



Montgomery County Young Democrats Testimony to House Ways and Means Committee

Support for HB 11- Public Schools - African American History - Development of Content  
Standards and Implementation  
1/27/2021

Montgomery County Young Democrats (MCYD) strives to educate and motivate our peers to become involved in the political process through strong, progressive candidates and policies. We, as members of this group, support HB 11- Public Schools - African American History - Development of Content Standards and Implementation. This bill will require the State to develop content standards for African American history to be included in certain State standards for social studies which is long overdue.

As residents of Montgomery County, we believe students, who are the future of our country, need to understand the rich history of African Americans in our nation. The current focus on White American history has not served all of our youth in the same way. By expanding to include African American history youth will get a better understanding of our country and current issues through different lenses. Whitewashing history has been a persistent problem in American education systems and this bill is a chance to address that problem.

Professor Walter Russell Mead of the Fordham Institute found that “states generally fail to address the non-Western world in sufficient detail” in his comprehensive analysis of World education in all 50 states.<sup>1</sup> Focusing on and intentionally including African American history will deepen Montgomery County students' understanding of our country and the importance of a well-rounded education.

We also applaud the content standards for African American history, which include the contributions of African Americans to society, slavery and the abolitionist movement, and the

---

1

[https://edex.s3.amazonaws.com/publication/pdfs/State%20of%20State%20World%20History%20Standards%202006\\_8.pdf](https://edex.s3.amazonaws.com/publication/pdfs/State%20of%20State%20World%20History%20Standards%202006_8.pdf)

fight against Jim Crow laws. Too many people are not taught these issues in school and as a result are ill informed about them, which has negative consequences for everyone.

These content standards for African American history in the Montgomery County Public School education system-and the Maryland education system-will benefit the entire community and create more well informed students and future leaders. We urge your support for HB 11.

Please contact us at [mocoyoungdems@gmail.com](mailto:mocoyoungdems@gmail.com) if you have any questions.