

**Senate Bill SB462**  
**Public Schools - Expanded American History -**  
**Development of Content Standards and Implementation**  
**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs - Feb. 16, 2022 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Free State PTA represents over 34,000 volunteer members and families in over 500 public schools. Free State PTA is comprised of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business as well as community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and family engagement in Maryland. As the state's premier and largest child advocacy organization, Free State PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families, schools and communities and a strong advocate for public education.

Free State is in full support of SB462, requiring the State Board of Education, in collaboration with local school systems, to develop, by December 1, 2022, content standards for expanded American history. This would require the Maryland State Board of Education to develop content standards for American history courses to include the history of African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, as well as women and other groups to be determined by the state board. Each local board of education would then develop curriculum guides. This bill aligns with Free State PTA's principle that all children have a right to an excellent education and National PTA's statement on Inclusive Curriculum in K-12 Schools<sup>1</sup> which states that "the history of all students—including but not limited to African American, Latino(a), Native American, Asian and LGBTQ groups—is accurately represented and taught."

The Maryland student population is a diverse one. According to MSDE 2021 Pre-K - 12 enrollment data<sup>2</sup>, white students now account for 34.47% of the population, yet we have not adjusted our curriculum to account for this diversity. Many students do not see themselves in the current curriculum<sup>3</sup> and feel it is imperative to learn about history that pertains to their own family's lived experience. FSPTA believes that all students should be represented in the history curricula and a review is needed so that all students feel seen and valued by the public school system.

**Therefore, we urge a favorable report for SB462.**

Respectfully,

*Marla Posey-Moss*

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<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/position-statement-inclusive-curricula-in-k-12-education>

2 <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/Graphs/#/Demographics/Enrollment/3/17/6/99/XXXX/2021>

3

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/high-schoolers-across-the-country-are-banding-together-to-demand-their-schools-teach-more-black-history-and-read-more-black-authors/2020/08/15/a42e6d12-dbef-11ea-809e-b8be57ba616e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/high-schoolers-across-the-country-are-banding-together-to-demand-their-schools-teach-more-black-history-and-read-more-black-authors/2020/08/15/a42e6d12-dbef-11ea-809e-b8be57ba616e_story.html)