

Remembering is Resistance
MoCoLMP
Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project

Senate Bill 0462 – SUPPORT
Public Schools - Expanded American History -
Development of Content Standards and Implementation
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee — Feb. 16, 2022 at 1pm

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

We are the Steering Committee of the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project, a coalition member of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project and a sanctioned Community Remembrance partner of the Equal Justice Initiative of Montgomery, Alabama. **We write in SUPPORT of SB0462.**

This bill will require development and implementation of curriculum guides to broaden and expand the teaching of American history in public schools. In particular, it will include the stories of populations often excluded: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic American, women, and others.

Through our work memorializing Black victims of lynching and racial terror in Montgomery County, we have become aware of the depth of ignorance about this subject and about the contributions of African Americans in our county. As we work towards racial reconciliation, we believe it is important to understand our collective history in the most inclusive way possible. Our position is summed up in the Equal Justice Initiative statement, “We are haunted by our history of racial injustice in America because we don’t talk about it. ...Achieving equality, justice, and fairness for all Americans starts with learning and sharing the truth about our past.”

This February, at the Rockville library, MoCoLMP is presenting our photography exhibit, “It Happened in Rockville: Remembering Two Lynchings.” One of the viewers cut to the heart of the matter, expressing his/her opinion, “Thank you to the MoCoLMP. I have been raised and schooled in Montgomery County and only now at age 49, am learning about these stories. It is important to know as these are linked to other stories and how our system is today. Truth can lead us to freedom at last.”

We agree with Del. C.T. Wilson, sponsor of the companion House bill, who stated that, “There’s an emergency in this country—we’re failing to teach facts.” The fact is that our history is made through the blood, sweat and tears of many—many who have been written out of history. SB0462 makes a good start in correcting those long-standing omissions.

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We ask for your support for SB0462 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.

Thank you.

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