

State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”



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February 16, 2022

Senate Bill 462 – Public Schools – Expanded American History- Development of Content Standards and Implementation POSITION: Support

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

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, health services and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

Senate Bill 462 mandates that the State Board of Education adopt uniform content standards for all Maryland public schools for the history and contributions of African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, Women, and other groups determined by the State Board. Counties are charged with developing and implementing age-appropriate curriculum guides for teaching beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights supports SB 462 because it is important for every student in Maryland to receive a holistic education that provides a comprehensive analysis of the past and present situation of diverse marginalized people in the United States. It is MCCR’s belief that teaching significant historical events for all diverse groups of people in American history will not only assist students with better understanding today’s challenges but will also better equip them to address these challenges in their communities.

For these reasons, MCCR strongly encourages a favorable vote on SB 462. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.

William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-1631
Phone: 410-767-8600 · Toll Free: 1-800-637-6247 · Maryland Relay: 711 · Fax: 410-333-1841
Website: mccr.maryland.gov · E-Mail: mccr@maryland.gov