



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

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Senate Bill 462
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:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2022 legislative session. WDC is one of the largest and most active Democratic Clubs in our County with hundreds of politically active women and men, including many elected officials.

WDC is in full support of SB0462. The bill requires 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.

The Maryland student population is a diverse one. According to MSDE 2021 Pre-K - 12 enrollment data¹, 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 curriculum² and feel it is imperative to learn about history that pertains to their own family's lived experience. Armed with more complete knowledge of our history, the next generation of leaders will be empowered to lead to a more just, inclusive society.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report for SB0462.

Respectfully,

Leslie Milano
President

¹ <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/Graphs/#/Demographics/Enrollment/3/17/6/99/XXXX/2021>

² 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