



Indian Origin Network of Howard County

Indian Origin Network of Howard County
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Testimony in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill 304**
Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 3, 2022
1:00 PM ET

Presented to: Paul G. Pinsky, Chairman

By: Indian Origin Network of Howard County (IONHoCo) – Pravin Ponnuri

FAVORABLE

Indian Origin Network of Howard County (IONHoCo) strongly supports SB 304 to include Asian American history in public schools in Maryland.

The world has changed drastically over the past fifty years. The global economy has changed from that of a Europe centric economy to an Asian centric economy. In 2020 the 48 Asian economies contributed nearly 40% of the global GDP and this number keeps growing.

The world is diversifying at an unprecedented rate. Today about 6% of the US residents, and 6% of Maryland residents are of Asian Origin.

Today's students are exposed to the Asian culture and people of Asian Origin in all aspects of their lives. It is very likely that when our students grow up to become responsible adults they will have to interact with the Asian economies and the Asian culture as part of their professional careers.

Thus, it is imperative that we teach our kids about Asian cultures, Asian History, Asian contributions to the world, Asian contribution to the USA and Maryland in a structured manner, so that they may have a good understanding and appreciation of a group with whom they will need to interact and work with throughout their lives.

Therefore, we urge a **favorable report on SB 304**. Thank you for your time and consideration.