

Maryland National Organization for Women

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RE: SB 462

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Maryland National Organization of Women (NOW) in support of Senator Lee's bill SB 462 – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation.

The National Organization of Women believes in uplifting all voices in the spirit of intersectionality. This means that women are not "just" women, but also of all races, creeds and ethnicities that shape our unique experiences in the world. Expanding American history to include specific contributions by women and all people of color enriches students' curriculum to include facts and stories about women who are just like us.

For example, I am of Mexican American descent and a woman. Including history about Mexican Americans and women would speak to me and my history. Including history about all races only enhances our understanding of American history and will touch other students who are of other descents, races, etc. It also allows students to see a mirror of themselves in our rich and diverse US history. As we know, representation matters.

In this vein, Maryland NOW supports SB 462 and hopes to see a favorable report from this committee.

In Solidarity,

Crystal Peters Action Vice President Maryland National Organization of Women