



Date: February 12th 2022

To: The Maryland State Senate

Sikh International Council fully supports bill SB 462. This bill will allow for the expansion of our educational curriculum in our public schools to further broaden the history of African Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Latinos, Native Americans, Women and other minorities. At a time when our nation is suffering from misunderstandings and hate, we need our children to understand the importance of these people in our history. These groups are underrepresented and many of their contributions are not reflected in our books, online resources, and curriculums. We are fully aware of the increase of hate crimes towards many Asian American communities. We hope a more diverse and multi- perspective curriculum will educate our future generations and stop the misinformation that is spreading. Racism has become more and more common amongst Americans and it is rooted in the lack of information and education

As you can see by just looking at the Maryland state senate, there is a wide range of ethnicities and backgrounds coming together to work on common goals. The only way these goals can be achieved is if all parties have a sense of open-mindedness to be able to come to compromises through discussion. Open mindedness has been shown to create a sense of compassion amongst peers or in this case, students. With compassion, both people come together in an argument and make a sincere effort to understand how the other person feels, the importance of the other person's beliefs/goals, and to empathize with one another. If both people are showing compassion for one another, then both people will be able to resolve a disagreement and creates a more open-minded conversation that can include new talking points and outside ideas that might not have come about when people are arguing out of anger. This all starts from a child's education and carries on to their adult life. Expanding our school curriculums to be more inclusive will only have positive effects on society as a whole. History would be incomplete without the inclusion of minorities. We hope for bill SB 462 to pass and thus enabling the expansion of the social studies curriculum for all students.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Singh". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Bakhshish Singh
Director