

Good afternoon, Committee Members.

My name is Lynda Hampshire. I have been a Calvert County public school teacher for 32 years teaching grades 2 through 8 and am currently a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies Teacher. I am, also, part of the curriculum writing team for MSDE that is rewriting the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies curriculum to align with **research-based** evidence and strategies on culturally diverse instruction. I am speaking on behalf of Calvert Education Association **opposing** House Bill 1190. **COMAR outlines the standards** and **MSDE provides the curriculum** that each county is to teach. It would be a **disaster** if each county were to start developing its own set of standards or curriculum. *Would that mean that we would change what the state wants us to teach? Would we no longer follow the state's civic education standards? And most importantly, why is this change needed?* Maryland's Social Studies curriculum is **highly regarded** in the education field. In fact, on July 8, 2021, MSDE announced that Maryland's State standards and frameworks for American History and civics were placed on the Honor Roll by the Fordham Foundation. The report states that, in Maryland, "the high school courses in American Government and modern U.S. History are **particularly strong**" and that "Maryland's civics standards for the early grades are unusually substantive and thoughtful." As an educator and mother of a high school student, I am hopeful that you will see this bill as unnecessary, burdensome, and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

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