

MARYLAND STUDENT COALITION

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TESTIMONY

BILL: House Bill (HB) 352 - Education - American Studies and Social Equity Standards Advisory Board - Academic Standards and Model Policy

SPONSOR: Delegate Qi, *Montgomery County (15)*

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

Monday, February 7, 2022

HB 352: Favorable

The Maryland Student Coalition is an entirely student-led, advocacy group that serves to bring students together to promote education policy reform. Founded in 2020 as a vehicle for advocating for students' right to demonstrate, our scope has since expanded to include more educational advocacy initiatives. You can learn more at marylandstudents.org

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and honorable members of the Ways and Means Committee.
We are writing in favor of House Bill 352.

House Bill (HB) 352, Education - American Studies and Social Equity Standards Advisory Board - Academic Standards and Model Policy, will establish the American Studies and Social Equity Standards Advisory Board and require that this board be reflective of the geographic diversity of the State.

HB 352 takes the crucial steps necessary to review and update standards for American studies with policies that promote ethnic and social equity in public schools. In our increasingly diverse world, it is necessary our schools and especially teachings of American studies recognize the impacts of various ethnic and social groups, representing peoples of a diversity of races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities. While American studies incontrovertibly deal in historical facts, the fact is that the contributions of marginalized ethnic and social groups have long been overlooked in the prevailing curricula. HB 352 makes substantial strides in redressing this unfortunate oversight and providing a quality holistic education for Maryland's public school students.

The Maryland Student Coalition supports the principles within the legislation and strongly encourages issuing a **favorable** report on HB 352.