

I'm testifying in support of HB489.

HB489 would establish a Commission which would make recommendations to the State Department of Education and State Board of Education, regarding the adoption of standards and programs that accurately reflect the discovery, interpretation, and learning of the history, culture, and civics of the U.S. and Maryland. They would do this after examining those things, including contributions of marginalized communities, and the intersectionality of features of those communities.

Peoples who have traditionally been marginalized, such as Black, Asian, Latino, American Indian, LGBTQ+, and religious minorities have largely been ignored in our school History curricula. This is unacceptable. We can't expect for our children to be educated about History without being taught the full picture. It's also possible that expanding the History educations of our students would make those students who commit acts of racism and other forms of hateful behaviors less likely to do so. Right now, what reason do non-marginalized students have to consider the equal rights, personhood, and even state of being American of others in their classrooms? This has been a huge issue in Pasadena, MD, where I live.

This is the Instagram page for students at Chesapeake High School in Pasadena to tell their stories of bias in that school. I recommend reading it for further understanding as to what some students are experiencing: <https://www.instagram.com/changeforchesapeake/>

Please give HB489 a Favorable vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen