

**Testimony in Support with Amendments to House Bill 47  
Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content  
Standards and Implementation**

**Ways and Means  
1/20/2022  
1:00 p.m.**

**Lauren Lamb  
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports, with amendments, House Bill 47. This legislation would require the State Board of Education and county boards of education to develop social studies content standards and curriculum for expanded American history, including instruction on the history and contributions of African American, Hispanic, Indigenous, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities, as well as the contributions of women and other groups as determined by the State Board.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Students deserve a truthful and honest education through curriculum and programs that are inclusive, historically accurate, and value dignity for all. This legislation brings necessary attention to the contributions and histories of groups that have for far too long been obscured or omitted in American History curricula.

Comprehensive, multicultural educational curricula are essential to developing students who are aware of, appreciate and respect the history and contributions of all people. MSEA believes that curricula should be intentional in ensuring that all students see themselves represented, and that local jurisdictions should take deliberate steps to incorporate the history and culture of African American, Hispanic,



Indigenous, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities and women into curricula and programming.

MSEA believes that teachers should be involved as professionals in all steps of the design, implementation, and decision-making process related to curriculum and professional development. Therefore, we propose removing lines 15-17: "Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each public school in the state shall include expanded American History in the social studies curriculum." Rather, local jurisdictions should follow the standards of curriculum development provided by the State Board and county boards of education to empower educators with the necessary instructional resources and curriculum guidance to assist in this effort.

It is essential that students receive an accurate and complete account of American history, and that educators are empowered with the resources to teach it effectively.

**We ask the committee to issue a Favorable Report, including the above referenced considerations, on House Bill 47.**