

OCA-DC Written Testimony Support for HB47_Final.pd

Uploaded by: Adrienne Poon

Position: FAV



Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice-Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee

OCA-APA Advocates
Greater Washington DC Chapter
P.O. Box 10433
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Support of House Bill 47 - Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation

As leaders and advocates in OCA-APA Advocates, Greater Washington DC Chapter, we are in strong support of Maryland House Bill 47 - *Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation*. This bill would allow for content standards for an expanded American History curriculum to include the history and contributions of multiple diverse communities such as the experiences of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

There has been a stark rise in anti-Asian hate incidents by nearly 150% nationally since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The roots of anti-Asian hate are systemic and deeply embedded, yet the Asian Pacific Islander American (APA) experience has long been invisible in school curriculums. Nearly 13%, (12.6%) of incidents were reported from school age youth suggesting that anti-Asian racism may begin at earlier ages. In particular, bullying of APA students can lead to significant impacts on psychological health, well-being, self-esteem, and development.

The integration of greater diversity into the education system would reflect the diversity of students in Maryland. Within a broader diversity framework, this bill would offer an opportunity to create greater sensitivity to the APA experience, reduce stereotyping, school bullying, and ultimately hate incidents in the longer term. There have been many positive contributions of APAs to the United States including as political leaders, arts, sciences, and the building of infrastructure such as the Transcontinental Railroad. Through both oral and written historical sources, the story of the APA community's vibrancy, civic engagement, resiliency, and hopes for a brighter future emerge and provide opportunities to teach about helping to build the very fabric of America. Without specific inclusion in the curriculum, these experiences and contributions have been largely unknown, which contributes to the othering of the APA community as perpetual foreigners, when in fact there is an over 400 year history of the Asian American community in the US as well as a long rich history of the Pacific Islander community.

In closing, an expanded American History content standards to include the history of contributions of multiple communities in the US, including the APA community, would be a positive benefit to reflect the diversity of communities living in Maryland and create greater sensitivity to diverse experiences from a young age, which may lead to longer term positive impacts such as reductions in stereotyping, bullying, and hate incidents. Therefore, we urge the committee to pass Maryland House Bill 47 - *Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation*.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Poon
OCA-DC Co-President

Stan Lou
Past President OCA-DC

Kathryn Ratanavanich & Wei Gan
OCA-DC Board Members

Testimony for HB 47.pdf

Uploaded by: Delegate C.T. Wilson

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony for HB 47
Ways and Means Committee

Good Afternoon Madame Chair, Mr. Vice – Chair, and esteemed members of the committee,
I am Delegate C.T Wilson and it's a privilege to be here to present:

House Bill 47: Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation

Bill Overview:

Requiring the State Board of Education to, by December 1, 2022, develop content standards for expanded American history; requiring each county board of education, in collaboration with the local school system, to develop and implement certain curriculum guides for expanded American history; requiring each public school, by the 2023-2024 school year, to include expanded American history in the social studies curriculum; and requiring the State Department of Education and the State Board to jointly analyze certain content standards.

Outline:

(A) The State Board must develop content standards for Expanded American History to be included in the State standards and framework of social studies. The content of standards for Expanded American History shall include instruction on the history and contributions of the following groups:

- (1) **African Americans;**
- (2) **American Indians;**
- (3) **Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;**
- (4) **Hispanic Americans;**
- (5) **Women; and**
- (6) **Other Groups as Determined By the State Board**

(B) Each County Board, in collaboration with the local school system, shall develop and implement an age – appropriate curriculum guides for Expanded American History subject to the content standards established under subsection (A) which will begin at the 2023 – 2024 school year, in which all public schools in the state shall include Expanded American History in the Social Studies curriculum.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this bill aims to develop and implement Expanded American History standards into all public-school curriculum in Maryland. This will allow students to learn a more expanded American history that goes more in depth of how these above mentioned diverse groups have also helped shape and build America up to what it is today.

Thank you for your time and I request a favorable report for **HB 47**.

HB47 - Finley Slenker

Uploaded by: Finley Slenker

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 47

Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and
Implementation

House Ways and Means Committee

1/20/2022

Testimony presented by Finley Slenker

Good afternoon, Madam Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington and members of the House Ways and Means Committee.

My name is Finley Slenker and today I am representing the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The history of our country and how it was built has been so deviated from reality. The history of our country was interpreted as the result of the hardships and the will of the white man. The history of so many has been pushed aside in the education system to make learning history more comfortable and appealing to the white population. We need to improve the curriculum for U.S. history in schools.

As some of you know, last year this bill was HB 11 and it focused solely on the expansion of African American history in Maryland curriculum. This year as it is now, HB 47 focuses on not only those of the African American community, but it has expanded to include many other racial and ethnic groups throughout our history. HB 47 will now include the history of Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, Women, as well as African Americans and any other groups as determined by the state board.

As a student who is actively involved in learning and interested in history, I have noticed a repeated pattern of the missing parts of our history that leave loopholes in the timeline of other races and ethnic groups in America to focus on the white perspective of our history. I believe that all of those who have struggled and faced discrimination to get to the point of where they are now, are significantly underrepresented in the education system and legislature around the nation.

I strongly urge you all to please vote in favor of HB 47 to help us all understand each other and create a stronger America. Thank you all for allowing me to speak on behalf of HB 47 and all of those who will benefit by this bill.

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(MSC) HB47 Testimony (FAV).pdf

Uploaded by: Jon DiPietro

Position: FAV

MARYLAND STUDENT COALITION

JON DIPIETRO, DIRECTOR
HUNTER CRAIG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

CHRIS LIDARD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
LAUREN RASKIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
VINAY KHOSLA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY

BILL: House Bill (HB) 47 - Public Schools – Expanded American History –
Development of Content Standards and Implementation

SPONSOR: Delegate Wilson, *Charles County (28)*

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

Monday, January 17, 2022

HB 47: 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 47.

House Bill (HB) 47, Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation, will require the Maryland State Department of Education to create content standards to expand representation of BIPOC perspectives and contributions to history.

Nationwide there have been cries by students, of all backgrounds, for increasingly diversified curricula in public education. While some counties in Maryland could be deemed more progressive, there are others that remain stagnant on the topic of curriculum reform and diversification. As a select few counties incorporate diversified curricula in the form of African American History courses, others take little to no action in the same direction. Although this fact is entrenched in political and social views, the issue of the education of Maryland's students is not a political one. The application of such curriculum reform cannot be an inconsistent patchwork as it is now; rather students should be exposed to a breadth of perspectives and authorial backgrounds irrespective of what district they reside in. Quality diverse education cannot become a commodity accessible to the few.

The Maryland Student Coalition strongly supports the diversification of school curriculum and has been pushing for similar legislation this session. Senate Bill 116, will direct MSDE to diversify ELA curriculum for grades 6 through 12. MSC will be testifying on that legislation when it is given a hearing date.

To further the quality of a Maryland public school education, it is of the utmost importance that social studies curricula be diversified in a standardized and consistent manner. Thus, it is to this end that we, Maryland Student Coalition, support the principles within the legislation and strongly encourage issuing a **favorable** report on HB 47.

HB47_SUPPORT_AAPICaucus.pdf

Uploaded by: Susan Lee

Position: FAV



SUPPORT - HB 47 - Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation

The Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus (AAPIC Caucus) strongly supports HB47- Expanded American History. Maryland’s current content standards for curriculum overlook important groups of Americans. This list of groups includes all of the official Maryland legislative caucus as well as a category for American Indians (as currently phrased in the Education article), and a catch-all category for the State Board and MSDE to utilize if appropriate.

We are told that those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it, but many Maryland students are not learning the lessons of our past from all perspectives. The Asian American community helped to build this country and the great grandchildren of their decedents deserve to learn about their accomplishments, as all other Americans learn about their European heritage.

Under HB 47, the State Board of Education would be charged to create expanded social studies standards with the input from Local School Systems and their school boards. County boards and local schools will then adopt age-appropriate standards in line with the State’s standards. The new standards will include lessons on the contributions of African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, women, and other groups. There is a growing need for Maryland students to receive factual and well-rounded education in American History. In a free society and democracy all of our constituents deserve to hear the full ungarnished expand American history.

Moreover, this bill is not prescriptive, it is a baseline of history to get the full spectrum of our American melting pot, which makes us an exceptional and indispensable nation more than any other factor. The state of Maryland is the correct jurisdictional level to set these educational redlines, because the state sets the curriculum standards.

Our nation's motto is still, "***Out of Many, One.***" We are collectively great because individual groups came together to build this country. This legislation is about addition (as the title is "Expanded American History"). There is no proposal for a subtraction of American History. We only divide against each other when we fail to recognize each other's humanity. Understanding begins with history lessons.

Expanded American history is about our collective experience as a nation, without leaving out important chapters because they spoil an imagined projection of a perfect past, when many groups were ostracized, ignored, and ridiculed. Our past belongs to all of us, and we all must have the same facts to draw from to decide our collective future. The Asian American and Pacific Islander community wants a full American history taught to their children, and all Maryland public school children, so that our collective achievements are recognized by all of society.

For these reasons, the AAPI Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 47.

HB47 Expanded American History SWA 1.20.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: FWA



HB47 PUBLIC SCHOOLS – EXPANDED AMERICAN HISTORY – DEVELOPMENT OF CONTENT STANDARDS AND IMPLEMENTATION

January 20, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB47 Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation**. This bill requires the State Board of Education to, by December 1, 2022, develop content standards for expanded American history. It also requires each county board of education, in collaboration with the local school system, to develop and implement certain curriculum guides for expanded American history; each public school, by the 2023-2024 school year, to include expanded American history in the social studies curriculum; and requiring the State Department of Education and the State Board of Education to jointly analyze certain content standards.

AACPS generally opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public school curriculum or assessments. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the Maryland State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate both curriculum and assessments. Maintaining this authority with the State Board and local boards allows local boards of education to collaborate with the State and stakeholders to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable.

We appreciate that the legislation places the responsibility for the development of content standards for a more inclusive and comprehensive American history where it belongs – with the Maryland State Board of Education. It is time for Maryland to ensure that every public school student in the State receive accurate and thorough education about the extraordinary contributions that diverse groups of Americans have made in Maryland and across the nation. Failure to require the State Board of Education to develop such content standards has resulted in local school systems not educating Maryland students on comprehensive and inclusive American history. All children from all walks of life should have access to a rich social studies education history as it is the fabric of who we are as a nation. It is American history.

Currently, AACPS students in grades 4, 5, 8, and 9 study American History aligned to the MSDE Standards and Frameworks. Over the course of the last 5 years, each of these frameworks has been rewritten by committees of teachers, administrators and other stakeholders in a process overseen by MSDE and voted on by the Maryland State Board of Education. The introduction and components of the AACPS frameworks explicitly address the contents of the proposed bill. For example, special attention has been placed on local and State level African American History. The AACPS Social Studies Office is currently engaged in a local history project with the Office of Equity and Accelerated Student Achievement to establish connections and provide materials to integrate into K-12 curriculum related to local African American History.

While AACPS supports the goal and the spirit of the bill, we ask that the Committee identify potential funding sources for implementation. We also respectfully request that the Committee consider delaying the implementation date to ensure proper and meaningful implementation.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB47.

HB 47 - Expanded American History - FWA .pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: FWA

**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.

HB 47.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Reichert-Price

Position: UNF

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate C. T. Wilson
And Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, MD

Re: HB 47- Expanded American History – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Delegate Wilson and Members of the Committee'

It is my understanding that, as written, HB 47 proposes the addition of historic contributions performed by members of all races other than that of Caucasian. I was born and raised in Maryland and, if my memory serves correct, the history that I was taught, did contain details of the contributions of all races and ethnicity. I am also a retired teacher, so I know that the current curriculum also includes historic, and up-to-date facts pertaining to all races, and ethnic groups.

Hopefully, it is the intent of this proposed legislation only to add significant historical contributions to the current curriculum, and not emphasize or minimize the efforts of members of any particular race. In the short two years of my involvement with legislation, I have become brutally aware that, often, a proposed bills' wording and meaning are not the same. I would hope that this bill is not one of such bills and "Expanded American History" is not code for "CRT". CRT has no place in our school system. An inferior, or superior race does not exist, and, definitely, should not be taught to our children.

Please vote for an Unfavorable Report for HB 47- Expanded American History

Sincerely,
Sarah Price
221 Miller Street
Westernport, MD 21562

HB 47 - LOI - Public Schools – Expanded American H

Uploaded by: Ary Amerikaner

Position: INFO



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	House Bill 47	DATE:	January 20, 2022
SUBJECT:	Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation	COMMITTEE:	Ways and Means
POSITION:	Letter of Information		
CONTACT:	Ary Amerikaner 410-767-0090 ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov		

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully submits this information regarding **House Bill 47 – Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation**, which would require the State Board of Education to develop expanded content and curricular standards for American History to be implemented in all public schools by the 2023-2024 school year.

MSDE is supportive of ensuring that the contributions and histories of the traditionally marginalized groups identified in this legislation are included in the ongoing redevelopment and expansion of Social Studies curriculum in the State of Maryland. The Department agrees that the concepts explored in HB 47 must be reflected in the fundamental premise of any Social Studies curriculum.

With requirements in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future that MSDE and the State Board develop new curricular standards and resources for every grade level designed to be used by local school systems to meet college and career ready standards for students by the end of 10th grade, MSDE registers concerns that unaligned processes and timelines for the completion of such similar and simultaneous work could be counterproductive both to MSDE and to local school systems.

As local school systems continue to update their curriculum in accordance with the revised standards and frameworks and look to make future changes to curricular standards as a result of the Blueprint, additional legislatively prescribed curricular mandates at this time could create implementation-based inefficiencies due to the nearly complete revision of curriculum already charged within the Blueprint.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **House Bill 47**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.