



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 15, 2022

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

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

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 47, *Public Schools - Expanded American History - Development of Content Standards and Implementation*, which requires that the content standards for American history established by the State Board of Education include instruction on the history and contributions of African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, women, and other groups as determined by the Board. It is essential that students in our public schools learn about the histories, struggles, cultures, contributions, and breadth of experience of these core groups of Americans so that all students can see themselves reflected in our shared history and better understand historical perspectives regarding marginalized groups.

Our nation as a whole is at a critical stage in reckoning with a multitude of inequities that are deeply ingrained in American history and still present throughout our society today. The inclusive curriculum envisioned by this bill is necessary to ensure that our students are provided with an opportunity to develop a complete understanding of the richness of our shared heritage and the consequences of historical inequities and marginalization. Our students need this kind of deep understanding to become the leaders our State and nation desperately need to address the challenges we face in becoming a more inclusive and just society.

I respectfully request the House Ways and Means Committee give this bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee