

**February 27, 2022**

**House Ways and Means Committee Hearing**

**House Bill 960**

**Education- Public Schools - American Studies and Social Equity Standards  
Advisory Board**

**Testimony from Janelle Wong, Montgomery County Progressive Asian American**

**FAVORABLE**

My name is Janelle Wong and I have lived in the state of Maryland for more than 10 years. I am on the board of the Montgomery County Progressive Asian American Network. This testimony is in SUPPORT of the proposed legislation.

Sustained exposure to high quality curriculum that adopts and inclusive perspective toward historically marginalized groups like that proposed in this bill is associated with positive learning outcomes in the K-12 public school context.<sup>1</sup>

At the Montgomery County Progressive Asian American Network, we devote our time and energy toward lifting up diverse and progressive voices in the Asian American community. We believe that learning about the experiences of the diverse groups that make up the United States can help us to more accurately understand and address persistent inequalities in society. Mutual understanding and knowledge of race and racism in our county part of the work we do in coalition with other groups, such as the MoCo Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Excellence and Equity.

This bill takes provides an important avenue for students to consider their own identities and histories in relation with others, and to think more deeply about how we are all connected. As such, I urge a favorable report on HB 960.

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<sup>1</sup> Sleeter, Christine E., and Miguel Zavala. *Transformative ethnic studies in schools: Curriculum, pedagogy, and research*. Teachers College Press, 2020.