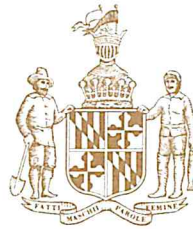


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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1164: Public Schools - Expanded American History - Development of Content Standards and Implementation

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and the distinguished members of the House Ways & Means Committee. For the record, I am Delegate C.T. Wilson, and I am asking for a favorable report on HB1164: Public Schools - Expanded American History - Development of Content Standards and Implementation.

HB1164 requires the State Board of Education to develop content standards for an Expanded American History social studies curriculum that include age-appropriate instruction on the history and contributions of African-Americans, American Indians, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, and women, and requires county school systems to implement the new curriculum in the 2024-2025 school year.

Our public school students are being done a disservice when they are not exposed to differing viewpoints and holistic instruction of American History. American History is not perfect, and it is often not pretty, and we should not teach it like it is. We are taught that Sally Hemings had six children with Thomas Jefferson because he loved her, but we are not taught that she was his 14 year old slave when she started having his children. My daughters should be able to look up to people that look like them, but they often are not even taught about some of the most influential and important African-American figures in history.

It is long past due that we implement an Expanded American History curriculum in the state of Maryland. We must give our children the tools to proliferate knowledge of America's successes and failures, highs and lows, and the moments we are proud of, but also the moments of which we are not proud.

For these reasons, I ask the committee for a favorable report on **HB-1164**.