

Testimony of Dr. William Reid
Ways and Means
March 1, 2023

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee. I am Dr. William Reid, and I live in Frederick, Maryland. I am a Maryland resident, a leader with Progressive Maryland, Frederick County Progressives, and a representative of the Asian American Center of Frederick, the Nigerians in Frederick, and Resources for Immigrant Support and Empowerment (RISE, Western Maryland). Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB0890, the "Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education."

We request your favorable support of the "Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education." This proposed legislation creates a Task Force or Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education to make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to further the discovery, interpretation, and learning of the history, culture, and civics of the United States and Maryland; and requires the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the State Board, the Governor, and the General Assembly on or before December 30 each year. We support the bill with an Amendment that requires the State Department of Education to act on the Commission findings by instituting changes to curricula based on the recommendations; and that this process is in place yearly.

I am a retired veterinary staff scientist from the National Institutes of Health and have worked in basic science research and education for over thirty years. My background and teaching experiences have made me aware of the need for equity in both public primary and secondary educational experiences regarding teaching the history of everyone and every group participating in the events and stories that have shaped this country. I urge you to pass HB0890 and support an amendment that requires the State Department of Education to institute curricula changes based on the Commission's findings and recommendations.

We appreciate your favorable support of HB0890.

Sincerely,
Dr. William Reid
Chair Frederick County Progressives