

February 26, 2023

Testimony on HB 890
Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education
Ways and Means

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports HB 890: Commission on History, Culture, and Civics and Education. This bill outlines the creation of a commission to make recommendations to the State Board of Education and Department of Education for more in-depth history and civics curriculums that prioritize history and culture that is more inclusive.

At Common Cause Maryland, we understand that throughout the United States, history in public schools have been stripped down and whitewashed under the guise of American Exceptionalism. This commission is the first step in the right direction in teaching the truth of the legacy of our state and country.

The bill proposes a commission with equal and most importantly equitable representation on the governor-appointed commission. We support this process because at Common Cause Maryland we prioritize equitable representative democracy.

In creating this commission, the eventual recommendations will instill in Maryland students the full picture of our history and will then become further civically engaged. Civics in education is the foray into student civic engagement.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote for HB 890.