

HB1363_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#/1363 – FAVORABLE

Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1363, Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement

My Jewish faith tell me “Knowledge brings with it responsibility for our own actions and for those with whom we are associated.”¹ This bill attempts to recognize that knowing not just ourselves but others and their history and cultures will help us guide our actions so we can live together in peace. It acknowledges and celebrates that the American “melting pot” makes us all Americans, but that is blended with the diversity of cultures and languages and faiths and experiences everyone here brings to that pot to mix and enhance life for all of us.

This bill attempts to ensure curriculum in Maryland schools and the resources in support of that will enable a fact based and historical presentation of the Asian American experience. It will battle the misinformation and disinformation present on both social media and in textbooks that might be incorrect or misleading in our schools. It will force a revision that will fix these deficiencies in our presentations of these topics and ensure we do not neglect teaching and learning this ingredient in our melting pot.

This bill will help our educators present a history that has helped make America the nation we are today. It will mandate fact-based learning and monitoring to ensure the presentation of that learning of the Asian American component of American society.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB1363.

¹ <https://www.aju.edu/ziegler-school-rabbinic-studies/our-torah/back-issues/judaisms-unique-approach-education>