



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0050:

Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education

****FAVORABLE****

TO: Hon. Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair, Hon. Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair and the members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Ms. Finley Slenker, Student Advocate for the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: January 17, 2024

The History of our country and how it was built has been so deviated from reality. The history of our country was interpreted as the result of the hardships and the will of the white man. The history of so many has been pushed aside in the education system to make learning history more comfortable and appealing to the white population. We need to create change and improve the curriculum for U.S. history in schools.

As you may know this bill has not yet passed the Assembly though it has been filed in various forms in prior sessions. Originally this bill was focused solely on the expansion of African American history curriculum. In its current form HB 50 focuses on not only those of the African American community but it has expanded to include many other racial and ethnic groups that have made contributions throughout our history. HB 50 will now include the history of Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, Women, as well as African Americans and any other groups as determined by the state board.

As a student who is actively involved in learning and interested in history I have noticed a repeated pattern of the missing parts of our history that leave loops holes in the timeline of other races and ethnic groups in America to focus on the white perspective of our history. I believe that all of those who have struggled and faced discrimination to get to the point of where they are now, are significantly underrepresented in the education system and legislature around the nation. I strongly urge you all to please vote in favor of HB 50 to help us all understand each other and create a stronger America. Thank you all for allowing me to testify on behalf of HB 50 and all of those who will benefit from this bill.

I ask for a favorable response.