



Secular Maryland

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HB 50 - UNF

Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education

Dear Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

While a temporary, short term, commission to advise the education board on the historical contributions of various minorities whose contributes otherwise tend to overlooked or slighted could be useful, this bill proposes that the commission be permanent. One of the provisions directs attention to “the contributions of and persecution of religious minorities”. Yet the composition of the commission, which is specified in detail, does not include atheists, Jews, Catholics, Hindus, Muslims, and other religious minorities. The net effect will be to give a front row lobbying seat to people that will likely be activists with potentially partisan agendas who are inclined to want to inject unbalanced perspectives into state wide public education

Please leave the tailoring of the curriculum to professional subject matter experts and educators who are less likely to have narrow agendas. We should be very wary of politicizing public institutions in general. We need to be especially vigilant against the temptation to promote particular narratives by propagandizing children via public schools.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
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