

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

As a student at Georgetown University and a proud member of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, I am writing to express my strong support for **HB1363**, which will pave the way for the inclusion of AAPI curriculum within the Maryland K-12 public education system.

Four other states--Illinois, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island--have already mandated Asian American Studies for K-12 schools. I believe it is our time to do so too.

I firmly believe that integrating AAPI history, culture, and contributions into the curriculum is essential for promoting diversity, fostering understanding, and empowering students of all backgrounds.

It is vital that our students learn about the past of all of our American people. The teaching of US history is not complete without the inclusion of the Asian Americans that helped build this country into what it is today. Without the inclusion of Asian American studies in school curriculums, Maryland students grow up unknowing of the many contributions that Asian Americans have had on our country, including their involvement with the advancement of Civil Rights. Students also fail to learn about many important historical events, such as the internment of Japanese Americans, the massacre of Chinese immigrants in Los Angeles, and the Chinese Exclusion Act.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1363.

Sincerely,
Emily Ventura-Ly