

Committees: Ways and Means

Testimony on: HB1363 Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement

Position: Board Member, Hazara-American Association

28 February 2024

Madam Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Mehdi Modabbir, and I am here today to express my support for House Bill 1363.

As an Afghan-American father of two children, I strongly advocate for the incorporation of an AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) curriculum in Maryland's K-12 classrooms. This educational initiative holds profound significance for the future of our children. It serves as a bridge connecting them to their cultural heritage, fostering a deeper understanding of their roots and promoting the knowledge and empathy necessary to foster an inclusive and equitable society.

As an immigrant parent with school-age children, a few things concern me more than ensuring they have a solid grasp of their cultural background and history. Mandating the inclusion of Asian American history in Maryland's curriculum, as proposed by House Bill 1363, not only celebrates the diverse experiences within our Asian American communities but also underscores the vital role Asian Americans have played in shaping our nation's history. This legislation ensures that all students, regardless of their background, are afforded the opportunity to learn about the struggles, triumphs, and contributions of Asian Americans throughout history.

By supporting Maryland House Bill 1363, we affirm our commitment to providing students with a comprehensive and inclusive education that reflects the richness of our society. I urge the committee to consider the importance of this legislation and to lend their support to its passage.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mehdi Modabbir

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