

BILL: House Bill 50 - Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education

DATE: January 17, 2024

POSITION: FAVORABLE

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

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GLSEN Maryland, the statewide chapter of GLSEN National, supports House Bill 50 - Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education . As the leading organization centered on creating and sustaining inclusive K-12 education for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) students in the state of Maryland, we believe that the establishment of the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education holds significant potential to inform policies and curriculum changes that ensure that K-12 curriculum reflects the rich tapestry of Maryland, and the United States, including the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Beyond simply reflecting the rich tapestry of our state and country, incorporating the voices of historically and presently underrepresented groups, including the LGBTQ+ community, has demonstrated tangible benefits for **all** students. As research by our parent organization, GLSEN National confirms, inclusive curriculum goes hand-in-hand with supportive teachers and accepting peers, creating environments where LGBTQ+ students feel more connected to their school community. Additionally, in these affirming environments, LGBTQ+ students also experience increased engagement in the classroom, academic motivation, and higher academic achievement.¹

Accordingly, GLSEN Maryland respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report on House Bill 50.

¹ Kosciw, J. G., Clark, C. M., & Menard, L. (2022). The 2021 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in our nation's schools. New York: GLSEN.

