

**Committees:** Ways and Means

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

**Position:** Favorable

26 February 2024

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

Asian Americans are the fastest growing minority group in the United States and make up over 8% of our state population, While some districts in Maryland may have smaller Asian American populations and less diverse Boards of Education, it is precisely in these areas where the inclusion of AAPI curriculum is most critical. By providing students in all districts with access to diverse perspectives and narratives, we can foster empathy, respect, and understanding among future generations.

Legislating the inclusion of AAPI curriculum statewide will ensure that all students, regardless of their district or background, have the opportunity to learn about the rich history and contributions of AAPI communities. However, the extent to which it is covered will ultimately depend on implementation at the local level. Therefore, it is essential for the Maryland General Assembly to provide guidance and support to districts in effectively integrating AAPI curriculum into their schools.

In conclusion, I urge your Committee to pass HB1363 and prioritize the inclusion of AAPI curriculum into our state education curriculum. By doing so, we can create a more inclusive and equitable education system that prepares all students to thrive in our diverse society.

Sincerely,  
Richard Gee