



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**Testimony in Favor of SJ0005: Elementary and Secondary Education -  
Curriculum - Importance of Diversity**

The Honorable Senator Feldman, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Kagan, Vice Chair  
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
Annapolis, MD

March 7th, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of this committee,

It is my pleasure to come before you and offer my testimony in support of Senate Bill SJ0005: Elementary and Secondary Education - Curriculum - Importance of Diversity. This bill will affirm Maryland's intention to teach a culturally diverse curriculum across elementary and secondary schools in a nondiscriminatory, inclusive manner.

This resolution is invaluable in ensuring that all students receive an education that accurately reflects the full spectrum of Maryland's history and evolves to mirror our increasing diversity. For too long, curricula have disproportionately underrepresented communities that have experienced discrimination.

Education is one of the most powerful tools in creating a more equitable world and breaking down harmful perspectives. A curriculum that incorporates learning about communities affected by discrimination equips all students with the awareness to promote justice and equity. Increasing diversity in the classroom has not only been proven to help shape students' intellectual self confidence, but also enhance critical thinking and problem solving skills, increase creativity, and expand cultural sensitivity.

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG  
*Legislative District 3*  
Frederick County

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Budget and Taxation Committee



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This resolution promotes meaningful change in Maryland in accordance with the goals of equity, inclusion, and a well-rounded education for all students. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lewis Young".

Senator Karen Lewis Young