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The Honorable Members of the House Committee

Maryland General Assembly

Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony in Support of HJ0005 - Maryland House Joint Resolution 5 – Culturally Diverse Curriculum in Schools**

**Hearing Date: March 3, 2025**

**Chairperson and Esteemed Members of the Committee,**

My name is Maureen Wambui, and I am a proud immigrant and resident of Legislative District 8, in Maryland. I stand before you today in strong support of HJ0005, which advocates for a culturally diverse curriculum in Maryland's elementary and secondary schools.

As a first-generation immigrant, I have firsthand experience of the challenges minority communities face in navigating society, often feeling invisible in educational settings where our histories and contributions are overlooked. Education is a powerful tool for fostering inclusion, understanding, and unity. A curriculum that accurately reflects the histories, struggles, and triumphs of all communities—especially those that have faced discrimination—ensures that every child feels seen, valued, and empowered.

HJ0005 is not just about expanding lesson plans; it is about shaping a future where young minds appreciate diversity as a strength. When students learn about the civil rights movements beyond just Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., when they hear about the contributions of Asian Americans, Latino leaders, African civilizations, and Indigenous resilience, they develop a deeper respect for one another. This resolution fosters an educational environment that prepares our children for a multicultural world where cultural competence is crucial.

Moreover, representation in education has proven benefits. Studies indicate that students from diverse backgrounds perform better academically when they see themselves reflected in their studies. In contrast, a narrow or exclusionary curriculum perpetuates ignorance and biases, contributing to social division.

By supporting HJ0005, Maryland is making a clear statement that education should be inclusive, historically accurate, and empowering for all. I urge this committee to vote in favor of this resolution to ensure that our schools serve as places of learning and unity, not exclusion and erasure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Maureen Wambui