Ways and Means Committee House Bill 875 <u>FAVORABLE</u>

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee;

Please give House Bill 875, regarding a Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education, a FAVORABLE report.

It seems we're currently living in an Orwellian hellscape. Trump has decided to entirely erase any mention of transgender people in every way he possibly can. Additionally, books and lessons about, and acknowledgment of the accomplishments, of LGBTQ+, Black, and Brown people are being banned. Even the achievements of white women, a demographic of which the majority voted for Trump, are being removed from government-run institutions. According to the Trump/ Musk administration, only white men are competent. If you're Black, Brown, Queer, or a woman, you're a DEI hire.

I recognize that there are people who prefer for county personnel to make decisions about education, rather than the state legislature. However, some counties are run by Trump supporters who will likely argue for whitewashing history rather than teaching the truth. This is unacceptable. We need to ensure that students get accurate information in the schools, especially since we know that we can't trust the government or media to provide it. House Bill 875 is a first step to that.

Please protect education and support House Bill 875. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Debi Jasen Pasadena, MD