

**Committees:** Ways and Means

**Testimony on:** HB1323 Education – Public Schools – Asian American History Teacher Professional Development and Resources

Dear members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Jasper Chen, and I am a 7th grader at Pyle Middle School in Montgomery County. Last year, I testified in support of a similar bill, HB1363, sharing my frustration about the lack of Asian American curriculum in my education and the harmful consequences of this omission. Unfortunately, that bill did not pass, and now I find myself fighting for the same thing again.

This year, I am deeply disappointed that I do not even have the opportunity to testify in person for HB1323, a bill that represents the absolute minimum Maryland legislators can do to ensure underrepresented students like me see themselves reflected in classroom materials. Last year, I spoke directly to you hoping to be heard. This year, I have no such opportunity, and I worry that once again, my voice and the voices of other students will be ignored. I don't want to be back next year, still asking for the same thing. Please take action now and pass HB1323 to ensure meaningful progress is made.

Sincerely,  
Jasper Chen