



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education

Bill Number(s): [HB0875](#)

Position: FAVORABLE

Date: February 22, 2025

Submitted by: Jeremy Browning, Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

To:

House Ways and Means Committee

The Hon. Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
The Hon. Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair

Testimony on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs:

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

On behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs we strongly support House Bill 875 to establish a Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education. The establishment of this Commission is particularly commendable as it recognizes the need to amplify the voices and contributions of historically marginalized communities, including LGBTQIA+ communities. By including representation from Maryland's Indigenous American tribes, differently-abled community, ethnic communities, and LGBTQIA+ communities, this new Commission aims to reflect the rich diversity of our state.

This bill was a top priority for the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs during the last legislative session and is even more important now, given the national rhetoric and policies attempting to erase LGBTQIA+ people and other marginalized identities from public life.

The [2021 GLSEN National School Climate Survey](#) reveals that LGBTQ students who attend school with an LGBTQIA+-inclusive curriculum reported decreased instances of biased language, increased GPAs, higher levels of self-esteem, decreased levels of depression, and increased interest in post-secondary education. Despite these benefits, only 26.7% of

LGBTQIA+ youth in Maryland were taught positive representations of LGBTQ+ people, history, or events.

The bill also highlights the importance of intersectionality, acknowledging the contributions and challenges faced by individuals who belong to multiple minority groups. This holistic approach to understanding our history and culture is essential in fostering a more inclusive educational environment and greater civic engagement.

In conclusion, House Bill 875 is a groundbreaking initiative that aligns with Maryland's commitment to an inclusive and equitable education system. By establishing the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education, we can work towards a more comprehensive and accurate representation of our diverse history.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs urges a favorable report on House Bill 875.

References:

GLSEN. (2022). *The 2021 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in our nation's schools*. Retrieved from <https://www.glsen.org/research/2021-national-school-climate-survey>