



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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House Bill 1323

In Opposition Of

Education – Public Schools - Curriculum – Asian American History Curriculum Requirement.

Ways & Means Committee

Hearing: March 5, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice Chair, and other distinguished members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) opposes HB 1323 Education – Public Schools - Curriculum – Asian American History Curriculum Requirement.

It is and has been the position of MRSPA that it is not the responsibility of the State legislature to mandate public school curriculum. It is the responsibility of the State and Local Boards of Education to make those decisions. MRSPA's Legislative Priority is clear: "MRSPA supports legislation designed to enhance public education and promote lifelong learning for all students. Support for public education and lifelong learning is essential to forming an educated and productive citizenry. Curriculum decisions made in support of public education and lifelong learning must be the responsibility of State and Local Boards of Education."

Our opposition does not mean that we do not support the premise of the legislation. We understand that all cultures must be included in the teaching of history and social studies. Many of us having been classroom teachers know that Asian and Asian American history and culture is already well included in the social studies curriculum across all grade levels.

On behalf of the almost 12,000 members of The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge you to allow the State and Local Boards of Education to do their jobs regarding school curriculum and oppose HB 1323.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Weller
President

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide