

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

**Committees:** Ways and Means

**Position:** Favorable

1 March 2025

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and the members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Karen T. Lin and, as a parent, a MCCPTA member, and MoCoPAAN (Montgomery County Progressive Asian American Network) member, I am writing to express my strong support for Maryland HB1323. This initiative is a crucial step toward ensuring that Maryland's educators have access to high-quality, vetted resources that will enrich curriculum and provide students with a more inclusive and fair representation of American history.

The teaching of US history must not be considered complete without the inclusion of the Asian Americans that helped build this country into what it is today. Without the inclusion of Asian American history, Maryland students grow up uninformed about the critical contributions that Asian Americans have had on our country, including their involvement with the advancement of Civil Rights. Students also fail to learn about many important historical events, such as Wong Kim Ark's fight for birthright citizenship for all children of immigrants of color, the internment of Japanese Americans, the massacre of Chinese immigrants in Los Angeles, and the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Studies show that a diverse and inclusive curriculum leads to higher student engagement, improved academic outcomes, and a greater sense of belonging for students from all backgrounds - and more specifically for Asian American students and mental health, reduces the allostatic load that comes from being systemically cast as outsiders. By investing in educator training, we can ensure that future generations develop a comprehensive and fairly representative knowledge of our nation's diverse history.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1323. Thank you for investing your time and attention now for the future of all Maryland students.

Thank you,

Karen T. Lin

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