

Committees: Ways and Means

Testimony on: Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education

Position: Favorable with Amendments

3 March 2025

Good afternoon House Ways and Means Committee Members, nice to see you again. My name is Sewon Kim and I am an 8th grader at Tilden Middle School in Montgomery County. I am here today to advocate with my fellow peers to place ethnic histories in our Maryland school curriculum.

According to the WorldAtlas, MCPS is the 15th largest school district in the United States. In our large population, we live with people from all over the world. Students, staff, and parents are fortunate to be a part of this diverse community. However, many have noticed that AAPI history has gone into oblivion in the curriculum of Maryland schools.

Guess who invented the compass? China. Or maybe you know where the ATM machine originates from? Vietnam. What country was the mastermind of shampoo? India. The numerous impacts Asian countries have had are left behind. This should change.

As each generation passes by, our wisdom in diversity and inclusivity grows. And our generation especially, demonstrates our growth. Overall, we are more inclusive and worldly in terms of backgrounds and cultures. Now is finally the time to start creating change that would stay. This doesn't just represent us, but it will represent others in the future as our wisdom expands. If you want to make an incentive change in our education, our first step is to put AAPI History in our school curriculum. I encourage you to pass the bill, HB1323. Thank you.