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EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Committees: Ways and Means

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

Position: Favorable

RE: Support for Maryland HB1323 – Education – Public Schools – Asian American History Curriculum Requirement

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to strongly urge you to support HB1323, which enhances teacher professional development on Asian American curriculum in Maryland's K-12 public schools. This bill ensures educators receive high-quality training from various organizations, such as the Smithsonian Institution, Teach AAPI, and The Asian American Education Project—equipping them with the resources needed to provide a more inclusive and accurate curriculum.

Asian Americans have played pivotal roles in shaping our nation, from advancing civil rights to making significant contributions in science, medicine, and the arts. However, many students remain unaware of key historical events, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act, Japanese American internment, and the contributions of Asian American communities to the U.S. economy and culture. Research consistently shows that a diverse curriculum improves academic outcomes, fosters social cohesion, and reduces bias-related incidents among students.

HB1323 ensures that students at all grade levels engage with Asian American history through structured and age-appropriate instruction, equipping them with the knowledge to understand our nation's full history. By investing in a more comprehensive curriculum, we are preparing future generations to be more informed, compassionate, and culturally competent citizens.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can further engage with you, Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and the members of the committee to advocate for the passage of this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Annette Cheng
Treasurer, OCA-DC

OCA IS A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP-DRIVEN ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERED IN WASHINGTON DC DEDICATED TO
ADVANCING THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

PO Box 10433, Rockville, MD 20850 | info@oca-dc.org | www.oca-dc.org