

Committees: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: **State Department of Education - Asian American History - Accurate Instruction**

Position: Favorable

April 3, 2026

Chair Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I write in strong support of the bill, **State Department of Education - Asian American History - Accurate Instruction**.

This bill is crucial for guaranteeing that Asian American history is taught consistently and meaningfully throughout Maryland schools. Currently, the quality and depth of this education often depend on chance factors, such as a teacher's personal knowledge or whether a school has the right resources. A dependable, statewide commitment to equitable education is essential to bring about lasting change.

This legislation supports the objectives of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future by advancing fair educational opportunities for all students, no matter their zip code. It promotes consistency, sustainability, and accountability across school districts.

The urgency for this bill remains high. Schools play a vital role in shaping students' understanding, challenging stereotypes, and nurturing respect. Providing accurate, well-supported instruction in Asian American history benefits not only Asian American students but all learners by enhancing civic awareness and cultural literacy.

As an Asian American student, I have frequently observed a lack of representation of my cultural history within the curriculum. Across subjects such as History, Science, and English, the perspectives presented are predominantly Eurocentric. However, I have been fortunate to learn from educators who have thoughtfully and deliberately broadened our understanding by incorporating the contributions of minority scientists and encouraging research on the roles marginalized groups played in the United States' efforts during World War II.

Unfortunately, many students who, like me, feel underrepresented in their educational experience may not have access to similar opportunities to explore their own cultural histories and contributions. This legislation seeks to ensure that all students are consistently afforded the chance to engage with diverse cultural narratives and recognize the significant impact of historically marginalized communities.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill. Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to Maryland's students.

Sincerely,

Lorena Wu

OCA-DC

Boysds, Montgomery County, Maryland