

Committees: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

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

Position: **Favorable**

April 1, 2026

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

Hi, my name is Miles Chen, and I'm a 5th grader at Bannockburn Elementary School in Montgomery County.

I was so happy when I heard that HB1059 crossed to the Senate. When I testified, I told the Ways and Means committee it was my third year coming here and asking for better cultural representation in Maryland classrooms. I felt so seen when Chair Wilkins spoke directly to me after my testimony and said she would work to advance the bill. I hope I can have that same impact on this committee today because I'm really looking forward to meeting Governor Moore.

Right now, Asian American history is often missing or barely mentioned in classrooms. That means teachers may want to teach it, but don't have the lesson plans or books that reflect our stories.

I experienced this myself last year in 4th grade. I had an assignment to write a persuasive essay about a personal area of expertise, and I chose Jensen Huang, the CEO of NVIDIA. But when I looked for information at school, there were no classroom materials and no library books about him. So I had to do my own research at home. I used books from my own library and searched for articles myself. I had to teach myself—because the school didn't have the resources.

And that's the problem. I shouldn't have to become my own teacher just to see myself reflected in what I learn.

Asian American history is American history. Students shouldn't have to keep asking year after year to be seen.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB1059. Thank you.