

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,

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

This bill is critical to ensuring that Asian American history is implemented consistently and meaningfully across Maryland schools. Too often, whether this history is taught well depends on chance—such as an individual teacher’s background knowledge or whether a school happens to have appropriate resources—rather than a reliable, statewide commitment to equitable education.

This legislation aligns with the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future by promoting equitable educational opportunities regardless of zip code. This bill ensures consistency, sustainability, and accountability across districts.

The need for this bill remains urgent. Schools play a critical role in shaping understanding, countering stereotypes, and fostering respect among students. Accurate, well-supported instruction in Asian American history benefits not only Asian American students, but all students, by strengthening civic understanding and cultural literacy.

As an Asian American college student, I strongly support the consistent implementation of Asian American history across Maryland schools. Growing up, the history curriculum I was taught was overwhelmingly Eurocentric. I never saw my own community’s stories reflected in the classroom, which often left me feeling isolated and like an outsider. It was not until much later that I realized history is multifaceted and full of diverse perspectives that must be addressed. I never want future generations of Asian American students to experience that same sense of invisibility when sitting in their classrooms. Educating all students about Asian American history fosters a more accurate understanding of our country and benefits everyone because it is American history.

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

Sincerely,
Elika Veng
Washington, DC