

Committees: Ways and Means

Testimony on: **HB1059 – Education - Asian American History - Professional Development and Library Materials**

Position: Favorable

March 2, 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in strong support of HB1059. My name is Elizabeth Chung, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Asian American Center of Frederick. Our mission is to enhance, empower, and enrich the lives of immigrants and minorities in Western Maryland by eliminating barriers to equity, access, and opportunity for all. Education is central to that mission.

HB1059 supports educators through professional development on Asian American history — which is critical. By investing in teacher development and strengthening access to inclusive library resources, we ensure that instruction is not only inclusive in theory, but effective and sustainable in practice. State-level support matters because without it, inclusion is inconsistent and dependent on local capacity.

While Frederick County does not have the same percentage of Asian American residents as some larger jurisdictions, that reality makes this legislation even more important. In communities with less AAPI representation, students may have limited exposure to Asian American history and lived experiences outside of the classroom. If those histories are absent from the curriculum, invisibility becomes the norm. A comprehensive, statewide commitment ensures that all students — regardless of ZIP code — learn that Asian American history is American history.

For AAPI students in Frederick County, representation validates identity. At AACF, we see how education shapes community cohesion. When history is incomplete, stereotypes and misconceptions fill the gap. When history is taught accurately and thoughtfully, understanding replaces assumption. HB1059 provides the framework and resources necessary to make that shift possible across Maryland.

I urge you to support HB1059 and help ensure that every student in Frederick County — and across our state — receives a complete, inclusive, and truthful education.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Chung

Executive Director, Asian American Center of Frederick