

Committees: Ways and Means

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

Position: Favorable

Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair Jessica Feldmark, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I write in strong support of HB1059 – Education - Asian American History - Professional Development and Library Materials.

HB1059 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. HB1059 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.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB1059. Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to Maryland’s students.

Sincerely,
Anna Jhon

OCA Youth Council

Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland