

Committees: Ways and Means

Testimony on: HB0627 Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education - Establishment

Position: Favorable

16 February 2026

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

This is my third year coming here to ask for better cultural representation in Maryland classrooms—and still, nothing has changed.

What's most frustrating is that after I testify, I don't hear anything back. No update. No plan. No next steps. That means another year of no progress.

Last year, while testifying, I met Father Phelps. He has been testifying on this issue for more than 6 years. I learned from him the importance of showing up and refusing to give up. Father Phelps' care for students like me is deeply inspiring to me.

I respectfully hope our legislators can show that same persistence by passing this bill to create the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education. This Commission would make sure there is a real plan and action so students don't have to keep asking year after year to be seen.

Please pass HB627 and show us that our voices matter.

Sincerely,

Miles Chen