

## **SUPPORT HB627** - Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education—Establishment

Dear Chairperson Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark and the Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

We represent a grassroots organization in Anne Arundel County called the Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students; our mission is to support the needs of LGBTQIA youth through advocacy, policy and legislation.

**We STRONGLY SUPPORT HB627 and we urge you to give it a favorable report.**

HB627 would establish the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education and we believe this would greatly enhance how U.S. and Maryland history, culture, and civics are taught in our public schools. Specifically, it would ensure that academic curricula reflect the contributions and experiences of the many diverse communities that are part of the United States and Maryland and that are often omitted from our schools.

This bill is an important step in making sure that a broad array of experiences, history and viewpoints are included when we educate our children. As you know, there are increasing efforts in the United States to eradicate educational materials that teach about our history, culture and people. Some of our political leaders want to erase important aspects of our history, as it makes people uncomfortable. For example, accurate history about the cultures of Indigenous people in the United States and the horrific effects of colonization by Europeans has been grossly misrepresented. Similarly, the experience and history of many other citizens, including members of Black and Brown communities and members of the LGBTQIA community have been excluded or inaccurately portrayed. This is harmful to all our children and severely limits our educational system. It also contributes to members of these communities feeling marginalized, stigmatized and devalued.

We want our children to grow up to be thoughtful, engaged and knowledgeable citizens so they are well prepared for the challenges of adulthood. Too often our children do not receive adequate instruction on civics, culture and history, leaving them ignorant and woefully unprepared. Our children are truly the hope for our country's future. This bill ensures that students receive a much more complete and honest education about our history, which effectively prepares them to engage thoughtfully in democracy, to understand the meaning of our Constitution and to fully participate in their communities as adults.

**Please SUPPORT HB627.**

The Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students  
[www.coalition4lgbtqstudents.org](http://www.coalition4lgbtqstudents.org)

