

Committees: Ways and Means

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

Position: Favorable

March 2, 2026

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

This is my third year coming here and missing school 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.**

You can make a difference by passing HB 1059.

Right now, Asian American history is often missing or barely mentioned in classrooms. That means teachers may want to teach it, but don't have the lesson plans or books that reflect our stories.

I experienced this myself last year in 4th grade. I had an assignment to write a persuasive essay about a personal area of expertise, and I chose Jensen Huang, the CEO of NVIDIA. But when I looked for information at school, there were no classroom materials and no library books about him. So I had to do my own research at home. I used books from my own library and searched for articles myself. I had to teach myself—because the school didn't have the resources.

And that's the problem. I shouldn't have to become my own teacher just to see myself reflected in what I learn.

Asian American history is American history. Students shouldn't have to keep asking year after year to be seen.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB1059. Thank you.