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TO: Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
Delegate Jessica Feldmark, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific-Islander Caucus

DATE: 3/10/2026

RE: HB1059 - Education - Asian American History - Professional
Development and Library Materials

**The AAPI Caucus supports HB1059 - Education - Asian American History -
Professional Development and Library Materials**

The Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus represents AAPI communities in the General Assembly and works to advance their legislative priorities. The Caucus respectfully supports HB1059 to expand access to Asian American history education in Maryland schools.

HB1059 requires the State Board of Education to evaluate Asian American history training programs for inclusion in the State Department of Education's continuing professional development program. The bill also establishes the Asian American History Grant Program to expand educator access to professional development and to provide funding for school libraries to purchase materials related to Asian American history.

For Asian American and Pacific Islander students and families, this bill is especially important. Too often, Asian American history, experiences, and contributions are overlooked in classroom instruction and school resources. Expanding professional development for educators and improving access to library materials will help ensure that students receive a more complete and accurate understanding of our shared history. Inclusive educational materials can foster belonging, reduce harmful stereotypes, and create stronger learning environments for all students.

HB1059 is a practical step toward more inclusive and equitable education in Maryland. By supporting teacher training and school library resources, the bill will help schools better reflect the diversity of our communities and provide students with a richer understanding of the people and histories that have shaped our state and nation.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1059.