



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of SB 462: Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

I commend Senator Lee for her leadership sponsoring Senate Bill 462 and her consistent advocacy for diverse representation in business, government and education. The Howard County Public School System is among the most diverse in our State and the nation. As a majority-minority school district, we have students from all over the world who bring rich culture and unique perspectives to our classrooms and community.

The origins of Columbia were founded on the principles of diversity and inclusion, and overtime, all of Howard County has grown more diverse and has been a welcoming place for all. Senate Bill 462 would expand statewide curriculum to incorporate histories of diverse, collective experiences, while allowing local boards to determine the amount of instruction and implementation of those standards.

It is important for *all* students to learn about the historical contributions of groups who have been essential to the fabric of our country, yet their histories have been diminished or untold. An expanded and inclusive American history is still American History. Fostering an engaging learning environment and further educating students of all backgrounds to see themselves and their classmates reflected in their lessons is key.

This bill would give students in Maryland a chance to appreciate a more complete history of our state and nation, which includes the narratives of those whose stories are often left untold.

I welcome your support and urge a favorable report on SB 462.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive