

**Testimony for HB 171**  
**Submitted by: Donald Hayashi**  
**Dayton Chapter Japanese American Citizens League**  
**Testifying as Proponent**

Chair Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

My name is Donald Hayashi, I live in Vandalia, Ohio, and I am the President of the Dayton Chapter Japanese American Citizens League. I am a concerned citizen, and I am asking this committee to support HB 171 which updates the Social Studies model curriculum to better reflect the histories of all Ohioans by including the migration histories, societal contributions, and experiences of a range of communities in Ohio and the United States who are not currently represented in our classrooms.

I believe that passing this bill is good for Ohio and Ohio students because...

- When I have been given the opportunity to share the story of Japanese Americans in Ohio classrooms, the students become engaged and want to know more.
- Most Japanese Americans migrated to Ohio during and following World War II, after being incarcerated by the United States Government and removed from the West Coast. Many young adults wished to continue their educational studies and were given permission to come and attend colleges in Ohio. Subsequently their families (parents, brothers, and sisters) came to join them. Other Japanese Americans came to Ohio to find employment and start a new life.
- It is important for our children and students to learn about the migration stories and contributions brought by those who have come to be a part of Ohio. This legislation will help to expand learning to make our students more knowledgeable of the multitude of experiences of Ohioans.
- An updated model curriculum would **provide rich, engaging options for teaching and learning social studies** in Ohio. It will equip teachers with activities and lessons that can support and develop respect for the students in our classrooms who come from different backgrounds than our own. Students are also more engaged when they see their communities reflected in the classroom. It's important that our students **can connect to the information** that they're learning in school. The Japanese American Citizens League would be glad to share resources that might be useful in the classroom.
- We fail our kids when we don't provide them with an education that truly **mirrors Ohio's current makeup as a state**. H.B. 171 can solve that by educating students about the experiences, migration, and contributions of a range of communities that already, and in many cases, have long called Ohio home.
- H.B. 171 has the backing and support of the **vast majority of Ohio teachers**, with endorsements from Ohio Education Association, Ohio Federation of Teachers, and Ohio Council of the Social Studies.

I respectfully urge the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee to consider my testimony and to vote yes in support of H.B. 171. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation.