

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 1.

My name is **Eric Han** and I am a student at **Capital University Law School**.

The Declaration of Independence states that “all men are created equal” and are “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” The Founding Fathers emphasized *equality*—not *equity*. The principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) were never part of our founding values, and in practice, DEI has led to further division—particularly harming underrepresented Asians in the legal field.

There are several reasons why DEI should be eliminated:

- The Declaration of Independence’s concept of *equality* does not mean forced equal outcomes but rather equal rights to self-govern and pursue one’s ambitions. DEI policies undermine this by favoring certain racial groups over others, rather than helping those who are truly socioeconomically disadvantaged.
- Restricting Asian representation in the legal field will hinder their ability to advance political and socioeconomic initiatives, ultimately undermining the principles of equal representation and the political process.
- DEI is a socialist ideology that promotes racial discrimination, as demonstrated in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, where race-based admissions policies disproportionately harmed Asian applicants.

My perspective on this issue is deeply personal. My family’s journey to America plays a significant role in shaping my values and beliefs.

In 1937, my great-grandfather dropped out of law school just four months before graduation to join the cavalry division of the Republic of China’s (ROC) military. At the time, Japan had just invaded Shanghai, and he felt it was his duty to protect his people. Attacks from both the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Japanese Empire ultimately forced my family to abandon everything—including his dream of becoming a lawyer.

My grandfather was orphaned as a toddler when his school evacuated students to Taiwan. Nearly starving to death, he made a desperate journey by train to the Chinese coast, took a boat to Taiwan, and eventually moved to Argentina, where he endured a home invasion, a kidnapping, and political unrest. Seeking safety, he and my grandmother finally immigrated to the United States. They never gave up.

Though I have not faced the same life-threatening struggles, I have experienced my own adversities. I struggled with ESL classes for years, making academics incredibly difficult. My mother hired a tutor to help me improve my English, and through relentless hard work, I succeeded. Despite my frustration, I never let obstacles define me—I pushed myself until I became proficient and excelled academically.

These experiences shaped my belief that success should be determined by dedication and perseverance, not by race-based policies like DEI. My family did not seek any special treatment; they worked tirelessly to achieve their goals. DEI undermines that principle by promoting racial favoritism instead of merit and hard work.

For these reasons, I urge you to support **Senate Bill 1**. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions

Additional Information:

When answering a question that a member of the committee asks:

Through the Chair to the Representative... (then proceed with their answer)