

**Testimony for HB 171**  
**Submitted by: Chau-Sa Dang**  
**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 Chau-Sa Dang and I am a constituent of Representative Lear in District 61, Lewis Center, OH. I am also a parent of twin kindergarten boys enrolled in the Olentangy Local School District. I hope that Representative Lear will support her constituents by voting yes on HB 171, which updates the social studies model curriculum to better reflect the migration histories, societal contributions and experiences of Ohioans not currently represented in our classrooms.

As a daughter of refugees raising multiracial children, families like mine are not unique to District 61. With close proximity to JPMorgan Chase Headquarters and strong performing public schools, my neighborhood strongly attracts families both near and far looking to build their roots here. With the district's minority enrollment at 40%, we must embrace the fact that many of our neighbors come from all over the world and may have unique and different journeys. I am proud of the efforts our Olentangy teachers have made to create a sense of belonging for my kindergarteners. Things like learning songs about Diwali, drawing pictures of our holiday traditions and reading about soccer player Pele (for our many Brazilian classmates), but I want to ensure all Ohio students are given the same opportunity to feel seen in the curriculum they are taught.

HB 171 will ensure that all teachers across Ohio have access to activities and lessons that support and develop respect for students in their classrooms who come from different backgrounds than their own. This would also help these students to stay more engaged as they see their lives and communities reflected back to them in their classroom.

I know from my own experience, it is disheartening to read in class about something as impactful as the Vietnam War, which cost many lives and uprooted many families (such as my own) summarized as a brief sentence in a textbook with no further discussion, and no consideration to the students sitting in the classroom directly affected by the War.

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.