

Testimony for HB 171
Submitted by: Thomas Giles
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 Thomas Giles, I live in Columbus, and I am a student at The Ohio State University. 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 it will give students throughout Ohio the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of cultures. This will help make the curriculum more enriching and engaging for all students and teachers, while also helping to support and develop respect for students from other backgrounds. This can help students of color to be more engaged and maintain a greater sense of belonging and sense of self. Personally, I remember barely being taught about other cultures, and it is time to update the model curriculum to better reflect the makeup of our state. H.B. 171 has the support of Ohio teachers, and relies on the existing curriculum review process to continue to allow our state's education experts to best serve and teach our students.

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.