

**Testimony for HB 171**  
**Submitted by: Sunmin Luong**  
**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 Sunmin Luong, I live in Columbus, OH, and I am a parent and a teacher, 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 what I read about my ancestors of the same ethnicity in high school textbooks, remained as a lucid memory even after 30 years. The only history that was included in US history class in the 90s was the Chinese railroad workers who immigrated in the 1800s. In the '90s, I was already feeling left out as one of the few minorities in predominantly white schools and my identity and my ethnic identity was even more faint in my textbooks. The presence of ethnic history in social study curriculum is directly related to shaping a strong and confident identity in students. Our educational curriculum needs to reflect the present community we are surrounded by and a diverse set of ethnic communities make up the city of Columbus and Ohio. This will enrich not only minority students but also majority students as they learn more about their neighbors and their classmates. This will lessen the gap between people of different backgrounds and help strengthen harmony and relationships between different races and ethnicity, encouraging them to consider each other as important pieces which make up this complex but beautiful mosaic called America.

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.