

**Testimony for HB 171**  
**Submitted by: Karthik O'Neil**  
**Organization: Myself**  
**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 Karthik O'Neil, I live in Cleveland, Ohio, and I am a college 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...

This initiative is not just a matter of historical accuracy but a crucial step towards fostering a comprehensive understanding of our nation's rich and diverse tapestry. Asian Americans have played a vital role in shaping the cultural, economic, and social landscape of the United States throughout its history. Their contributions, often overlooked or marginalized, deserve recognition in our educational system. By integrating Asian American History into the curriculum, we provide students with a more inclusive and accurate account of America's past.

Diverse perspectives and narratives contribute to a more nuanced understanding of our shared history. Learning about the struggles, achievements, and cultural heritage of Asian Americans will not only empower students from Asian backgrounds but also educate others about the multifaceted experiences that contribute to the American story. Furthermore, an inclusive curriculum promotes empathy, understanding, and unity among students of different cultural backgrounds. It equips them with the knowledge and awareness needed to navigate an increasingly interconnected and diverse world. Incorporating Asian American History into the social studies curriculum is an investment in a more informed, tolerant, and compassionate citizenry. I believe that by embracing the full scope of our nation's history, we empower the next generation to be active and informed participants in shaping a more equitable and harmonious future.

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.