

Testimony for HB 171
Submitted by: Dhruva Vyas
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 Dhruva Vyas. I live in Westerville and work for a major Fortune 100 corporation headquartered in Columbus. I am a concerned business-person and voter 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.

Passing this bill is critical for the economy of Ohio because in our businesses, making connections and networking plays an integral role in gaining business contracts and partnerships.

It is unfortunate that I did not know of the Japanese occupation of Korea until I was over 40 years old, having worked in the technology industry for over 20 years. As I engage with people from varied backgrounds and cultures, it aids the ability to form trust in our unions if we know something about the people with whom we're trying to make these connections.

Now that I've taken the time to educate myself on the history of those we do business with, I am positioned to make successful partnerships. This only benefits the multi-billion dollar corporation I work for, which also helps Ohio thrive economically.

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.