

CODY LATPAKDY

Tuesday, January 31st, 2023

Dear Chair Gilbert and distinguished members of the Rules Committee,

Thank you so much for your time. My name is Cody Throm Latpakdy. I've been a resident of Hampton, Virginia for 20+ years. Today, I am proudly writing in favor of HB 2440.

Growing up as an Asian American, I felt alienated due to the minimal knowledge that was taught in schools. It felt like a barrier in which both my siblings and I had to grow/learn out of, which made it hard to socialize and be part of the community.

Including Asian American history and culture in classrooms is important because I feel it will bring students an enriching experience and provide a more inclusive community where everyone can be understood and heard. With the ongoing increase in anti-Asian American bullying, hate, and violence, we need to act urgently in using education as a solution in ensuring the public safety of our communities.

Please favorably vote HB 2440 out of the Rules Committee with haste. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Cody Throm Latpakdy

Hampton, Virginia