FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Asian American and Pacific Islander Inclusive History Bill is Law, Signed by Delaware Governor

Wilmington, DE — On September 26, 2024, Delaware Governor John Carney signed into law Make Us Visible Delaware's Senate Bill 297, requiring the integration of all American histories, including Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) history into K-12 classrooms.

Delaware is officially the seventh state in the nation to adopt Asian American history requirements through legislation. Other states include IL, NJ, CT, RI, FL, and WI. Make Us Visible (MUV) is proud to have led efforts in 5 of these states.

Over the last year, MUV DE worked closely with community stakeholders and lawmakers in Delaware, raising awareness surrounding the urgency of including AAPI history in the state's K-12 curriculum. Led by Co-Directors Devin Jiang and Y.F. Lou, MUV DE held community engagement events throughout the state with speakers featuring students, parents, educators, and elected officials.

"SB 297 is a preventative measure and solution to guard against racist rhetoric and violence towards Asian Americans. It's time to normalize and uplift the lives of Americans whose stories are untold," said Jiang.

"With the passage of SB 297, we have invested in a lasting legacy for our future generations to promote a more inclusive and culturally aware society. Now, my children, and countless others, will not feel left out of U.S. history," said Lou.

Before reaching Governor Carney's desk, SB 297 passed the Delaware House and Senate unanimously, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Bryan Townsend, Senator Sturgeon, Representative Sophie Phillips, and Representative Bill Bush.

"Delaware's AAPI community has a long and proud history of critical contributions to our state. From kindergarten all the way to 12th grade, it is important for Delawareans to learn that our history, just like our present and future, involved key contributions from people of diverse backgrounds. I thank MUV DE for helping to ensure Delaware remains at the forefront of progress, strength, and inclusivity," said Townsend.

“As someone who is multi-racial and grew up feeling very left out and uncomfortable in the classroom, I can say these standards make a world of difference for a child’s ability to feel included and accepted,” said Phillips.

Make Us Visible Delaware is part of a nationwide coalition of students, parents, teachers, and neighbors dedicated to developing a long-term preventative solution rooted in education as a response to anti-Asian American bullying, hate, and violence. Make Us Visible comprises 24 state chapters and has developed free K-12 educational resources on its website (www.makeusvisible.org/resources).

“Asian Americans across Delaware are finally heard, seen, and validated. Asian students in K-12 Delaware schools will be able to recognize the value of their heritage and culture in the history curriculum, making them feel inclusive for who and what they are,” said Joey Lewis, MUV DE Steering Committee Member and former Delaware teacher.

“As a public school educator, SB297 is a significant step towards building a more inclusive school curriculum that addresses what education truly needs today. I am looking forward to teaching this curriculum in the classroom,” said Andrea Li, MUV DE Steering Committee Member and Delaware teacher.

MUV DE looks forward to working alongside school districts, administrators, teachers, the State Department of Education, and other subject matter experts to develop age-appropriate curricular resources and support implementation efforts.

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