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## **Virginia Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus Opposes Delay in The Public Hearing Process for the 2022 History and Social Science Standards of Learning Revision**

Richmond, VA — The Virginia Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus (VAAPIC) opposes the delay in the public hearing process of Virginia’s Revised 2022 History and Social Science Standards of Learning and insist that the new standards reflect a more complete, robust, and inclusive narrative of all peoples and their histories.

At its meeting last Wednesday, August 17, the Virginia Board of Education voted to delay the mandatory public hearings on the state’s new history and social science standards which were scheduled to have occurred this August. Along with the delay, Superintendent Jillian Balow announced that she asked the Fordham Institute, a conservative think tank that promotes the privatization of public education, to review the recommended changes. It was announced that the Fordham Institute identified some issues that should be addressed before any public hearings take place.

**Senator Ghazala Hashmi**, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Education, stated the addition of the “Fordham Institute at this post-midnight hour is suspect. The work of revising our standards has taken over two years, has been led by panels of education leaders and scholars of history, and has already received over 5000 comments from experts and members of the public. The Youngkin administration repeatedly demonstrated its hostility to an inclusive and honest history. The racist dog whistles of *critical race theory* and the efforts to ban books in school libraries and classrooms highlight the administration’s real efforts to whitewash history and to further marginalize Black, Brown, and AAPI perspectives.”

**Delegate Suhaz Subramanyam**, a Member of the House Education Committee and K-12 Education Subcommittee, said: “The painstaking process for updating our curriculum should not be circumvented because of culture wars and partisan politics. Our kids deserve an education that is honest and presents all the facts accurately.”

**Delegate Kathy Tran**, First Vice Chair of the VA AAPI Caucus, stated: “The process for revising our standards of learning should not be delayed and politicized. Now is the time for public hearings. To gain the skills and knowledge to build a brighter future, our children must have a complete understanding of our past. Their history curriculum should not be dictated by right-wing think tanks.”

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*The Virginia Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus (VAAPIC) is a legislative organization recognized by the General Assembly to serve as a collaborative voice for Virginia’s Asian American and Pacific Islander communities by identifying public issues of interest and to develop formal positions, facilitate discussions, and advocate for policy outcomes.*