



Did you know that Wisconsin public schools are not required to teach about Asian American history? In a time of rising anti-Asian hate and violence, education is our most powerful tool to promote empathy and understanding.

**We are excited to celebrate May 2023 AAPI Heritage Month by advocating for public hearings on the *Teach Asian American History Bill* and invite you to join in this initiative!**

This April, Assembly Bill 232 ([AB 232](#)) and Senate Bill 240 ([SB 240](#)) was introduced by Assembly Rep. Francesca Hong and a bipartisan group of legislators to direct school boards to provide an instructional program on Hmong Americans and Asian Americans in our Wisconsin public schools. This bill will amend a 1989 law known as Act 31, which did not include any AAPI communities in that law.

Our goal in May is to advocate with our legislators for the State Assembly Education Committee to move the bill to the public hearing stage and to build awareness and support across Wisconsin to pass the bill. Public hearings are a critical part of the democratic process to get public input on proposed bills. We need to mobilize our AAPI community members and allies across Wisconsin to make our voices heard! Civic engagement matters!

### Ready to take action? Here's how:

1. **Join us for a *community gathering*** to color and decorate ["Teach Asian American History" postcards](#)! While we are coloring, we can discuss the bill and share ideas on other ways to reach out to raise awareness and advocacy for the bill! We will supply crayons/markers and refreshments. Bring your kids and grandkids!

WHERE: Chinese Community Baptist Church, 120 N. 73<sup>rd</sup> Street

WHEN: Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-3:00 p.m.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Lorna Young at [ocawisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:ocawisconsin@gmail.com) and let us know how many will join in, so that we can bring enough postcards and treats! (Also feel free to stop by to just pick up some postcards!)

2. **Top priority actions - Advocate & Prepare for Public Hearing... here are some ways to reach out:**
  - a) Prepare short (~25 seconds or shorter) videos to uplift Asian American stories from all around the state for Representative Hong to put into her communication toolkit. [Video instructions and tips here.](#)
  - b) Call/write to your State Senator and State Representative to ask them to support the bill. You can [find your State Assembly Rep here](#) and [use/adapt this email template.](#)
  - c) Reach out to your local press with op-eds to advocate for the bill. (Feel free to send us copies of your op-eds)
  - d) Prepare your testimony for the public hearing and help your friends, family, and community members do the same (so that we are ready to roll when the public hearing date is scheduled). [Please find talking points here.](#)
3. **Other Actions:**
  - Amplify our work and invite others to join in on social media. [Sample captions here.](#)
  - Host a community gathering to do videos, discuss the bill, and help others prepare their public hearing testimony.
  - Raise awareness about this bill by sharing articles like this [Cap Times Article](#) and this [On Milwaukee Article](#)
  - Recruit allies to advocate for the bill, including students, parents, teachers/educators, & community members

Asian American history is American history. Together, we can build a Wisconsin where all students feel seen in their classrooms and are encouraged to be curious about other cultures and stories.

**As a first step, we hope you can join with our community gathering on May 6<sup>th</sup> anytime from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.!**

Questions? Ideas? Please email Lorna Young at [ocawisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:ocawisconsin@gmail.com)

A community service project with:

