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HB 7344 AN ACT CONCERNING RECRUITMENT  
OF TEACHERS

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee.

My name is Sarah Tanner and I am a student at Plainville High School. I would like to speak about the importance of having diversity in the teaching staff at schools like mine.

As a non-minority student, I notice that most of the kids from the Choice program keep to themselves and the white students keep to themselves. There is not enough interaction between the two group members.

This makes it very difficult for minority and non-minority students to get to know one another. How will I know that black and Hispanic people can be articulate and compassionate if the only minorities I see are the negative portrayals on television? My teachers are very nice people and they try to teach us to look at other people's points of view. That helps give us insight in the Choice Program kids and helps us understand them better. But it is not enough.

If we had more minority teachers in our school, I believe that would help the minority students to be more comfortable in their surroundings and they would mix more with the non-minority students. At the same time, it would help the white students to break their negative stereotypes about the minority students.

We would all benefit from this since we would be able to learn from each other.

I want to be able to get along with everyone from all races and backgrounds when I go out into the work force. Learning to understand and getting along with minority students is important to students like me and having more minority teachers in school can help us bridge the gap.

Thank you for your time.