

To who it may concern,

My name is Amanda Nicole Andrade, a freshman at The University of New Haven. I believe the proposed bill, House Bill 7082- An Act Concerning the Inclusion of African-American Studies in the Public School Curriculum is a very important bill to be considered. Only 13 states have laws that require African American Studies to be taught in schools. With there being 50 states in America, all 50 states should require this topic be taught. The history of African American studies are just as important as the other cultural studies taught in schools. The history of African Americans in America have shaped our country today; for the good and the bad. Children should grow up knowing about their ancestors, other cultures and what life was like for African Americans years ago. African American studies relating too slavery can be hard to teach, especially to younger children due to what slaves went through. Children should understand that what happened to African Americans back then was completely inhumane. Slavery today is not an issue, but racism is. Teaching children in schools, a place that should be for equal learning should be a foundation of their knowledge on this topic. The more children know about the inhumane hardships African American's had to go through, the more hope we could have that racism could eventually go down. Children aren't born racist or not accepting someone because of their skin color, they are taught. Rather than teaching children to isolate, they should be taught to accept and understand what their ancestors or friends ancestors went through. They are capable to learn to accept and include everyone. Making it a law to require African American studies to be taught shouldn't even be a question. American history is taught to children at young ages, but only the good is taught. The hard topics are always jumped over because of how the children are going to react. Rather than worrying about how children are

going to react to learning hard history, it should be a focus to stop making African American Studies “hard history”. Children are our next generation and our soon to be leaders. The knowledge they learn in school and at home will hopefully change America and its race issue. Our nation committed inhumane acts to a group of people, and our children should be taught about it. Taught to understand what not to do, taught to understand we are all equal and taught to understand that we must move forward so we can end the war on racism today.