

Dear Members of the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Seniasbel Arocho, I am a student at Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School from New Haven and I am a member of the Citywide Youth Coalition. I support Bill 7082 with SEJ'S amendments.

This bill is important to me because the history that we teach in school can not be cherry picked and it is time for the "ugly truth" to come out to the light. Now that I am a senior in high school and reflect on my academic career, I see now that all my history classes were heavily sugar coated and white washed . Throughout the pages of our history textbooks all that is idolized is white "heroes" and African Americans are given minimal credit and spotlight. As a Afro-Latina student this is extremely disappointing to know that my own education system still does not see me as their equal or even worth enough to be educated on the full truth of my people. If this bill were to be passed, this would be giving the leaders of tomorrow a greater opportunity to have the power of knowing their history, and to address it with confidence. Teaching this content will bring bigger understanding about the history of racism to my community and myself a better understanding can lead to better communication, which will lead us to a better future.

We Are Calling For:

1. The bill to require The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States in the CT curriculum
2. Required racial bias trainings for social studies teachers and administrators
3. the creation of a curriculum-building Committee within the State Dept of Ed that would include teachers, experts on critical race theory, and students

Why include The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States?

Including this additional content will help students learn:

1. African American history = American history
2. The history of the creation of the concepts of "race," whiteness, and anti-Blackness
3. The role racism played in the formation of the United States
4. about their ethnicities and countries of origin, and how their ethnicities came to fit in the American conception of race

AND will help us ensure that the delivery of the content is effective, high-quality, and consistent with the vision of the law and the needs of our constituents.

Thank you for your time,  
*Seniasbel Arocho*