

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

My name is Lihame Arouna, 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 I have felt the negative effects of white washed history courses throughout my school life. My experience in history classes throughout my life has always been disappointing. As a black person it is very important for my peoples history to show cased in a truthful and factual way. This includes our history dealing with race and racism. As a black student I do not see that happening in any school. It's important to have the history of racism in the US added to this conversation in order to show case american history in a truthful and inclusive way. Not only will it benefit students of color but white students would be greatly impacted as well.

Teaching this content makes things better for me and my community, by providing a truthful and inclusive version of history to students. It will make sure no other student of color leaves their history classrooms disappointed.

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,

*Lihame Arouna*