

Testimony in support of HB 7082: An Act Concerning the Inclusion of African - American Studies in the Public School Curriculum

Dear Co-Chairmen Rep. Sanchez and Sen. McCrory, Vice-Chairwomen Rep. Barry and Sen. Abrams, Ranking Members Rep. McCarty and Senator Berthal and Distinguished Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Paula Bacolini. I am a retired CT teacher and have lived in Glastonbury for over 30 years.

I am very concerned that in recent studies and surveys children in K-12 in 2015 have received only one or two lectures/lessons in African-American Studies. In 2017, only 33% of high school students knew and understood that the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ended slavery, and only 8% knew that slavery was the foremost reason that the South seceded from the Union causing the Civil War. Now in 2018, over a century, it is shocking that only 13 states have laws in place to ensure that Black History is taught in their schools.

It is time that CT join those states and teach our students the truth about slavery and Black History, including how so many African Americans have fought and died for our country in our wars, and how so many helped to achieve the Civil Rights Act which President Johnson signed into law, and now is being dismantled at the Federal Level.

CT students must learn the truth and accuracy of our country's Black History in order for us to move forward as a nation to achieve Civil Rights and Voting Rights for all our citizens.

I urge the Education Committee to pass HB 7082, unanimously, out of the committee to the floor of the CT House.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Paula Bacolini
Glastonbury, CT