

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

My name is Lilanthi Balasuriya, I am a physician in training at Yale School of Medicine and live in New Haven and I am a supporter of the Students for Educational Justice efforts to promote racial justice in grade school curriculums. I support Bill 7082 with the Students for Educational Justice amendments.

This bill is important to me because I daily work with patients who have directly worked suffered from the impact of everyday racism. Racism has greatly impacted their mental and physical health and continues to impact their access to resources. It is essential that curriculum reflects African American History and the history of all people of color as this is a critical information. It is crucial that students be educated on the role that racism has had on the formation of The United States. Additionally, it is essential that teachers involved in kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum have anti-bias training, to avoid the propagation of social injustice that has generational impact.

I stand in support of Bill 7082 with the Students for Educational Justice amendments.

Thank you for your time.

Lilanthi Balasuriya MD, MMS