

HB 7082 AN ACT CONTAINING THE INCLUSION OF AFRICNA AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

ATTN: Legislative Office Building

RE; March 6, 2019 Public Hearing HB 7082 / An act containing inclusion of African American Studies in the Public School Curriculum effective July 1, 2019.

This testimony is in support of HB 7082 to include African American Studies in the Social Studies curriculum. As a former History teacher for Middle and High School students I believe it crucial to broaden students' understanding of the various cultures and races.

During my years of teaching, my span of classes included American and European History, as well as the study of Chinese, Eastern Indian, and African countries. The individual style textbooks opened up a vista of insights for students, and I believe, expanded their appreciation of the heritage of each nation and the knowledge, inventions, and advances each culture initiated.

In addition to notable inventions and innovations originating in India and China, few are aware of the many contributions from Africa. For instance, the invention of mathematics dates as far back as 35,000 B.C. A number of the math concepts that are taught in today, such as division and multiplication of fractions and geometric formulas to calculate area and volume, were developed in Africa. Moreover, a number of treatments used in modern medicine today such as vaccinations, bone setting, brain surgery, skin grafting, dental fillings, and cauterization began in Africa centuries ago.

In order to value diversity and engage our students in respecting their differences, I believe understanding our cultural history is key. Please support HB 7082

Cordially submitted,
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