



Why I Support Raised Bill 7082

Good afternoon. My name is Dahmarre Bournes and I am a freshman at Windsor High School.

I am on the Youth Leadership Academy's team calling for equalizing education, which is one of the most important challenges throughout African American History. Two of our recommendations were to increase training for teachers about the cultures of people of color – and also to recruit teachers of color.

These recommendations are important to make House Bill 7082 successful as well.

Black history should be taught in school as a curriculum because Black children in school know more about slavery than the prosperous times of Black people.

Even when we talk about slavery, it's very vague. So if Black History were taught more in school, African-American children would know about what happened back when – and see how it relates to right now. With this knowledge, black children can learn from it and become more successful.

To testify from my experience: I will explain the story about the Black Leadership Program at my school, how it became a program for everyone – and how it then became a program for white students, after no one recognized how it benefited the Black students.

In other words, at my middle school we had a young men of color leadership group, but due to the amount of complaints we had to open it to everyone. Just as we have all-women's colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities, we need to provide some unique opportunities for African-American high school students, too. Being able to see past traditional barriers, and having intense belief in your ideas and ability, will help you take advantage of many opportunities.

Thank you for your time and we hope you can support this bill.