

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

My name is Nakitta Brown, I am a Parent, Community Advocate and member of The Greater New Haven Branch of The NAACP in New Haven, Connecticut.

I am writing you in support of Bill 7082 with SEJ'S amendments.

This bill is important to me because, just as students are taught mathematics, english, science and American History. All students should be taught African American History that focuses not just on slavery but on the contributions made by African Americans from the past and present. Students and educators need to know that African Americans have always and continue to be a vital aspect to American society and the world.

As a former Parent of a student in the New Haven Public School District. My son Julian is currently a sophomore in college at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte, North Carolina. I know how important it was and is to educate him and all kids on the history of our African American ancestors. When one knows their history they develop a sense of pride in themselves to know what kind of people they come from. People who overcame abuse, torture and a lack of education. Who fought for their civil and equal rights and the rights of others. A people who just wanting to be treated fairly with the same liberties and justices as all Americans. Teaching African American history to all can help to dispel any stereotypes that they may have heard, seen or learned about in school, on television or in their communities.

All students should be taught African American history, it needs to be implemented into the school curriculum all year long not just in February for Black History month. All school districts need to make a commitment to educating all students, teachers and administrators on the full true history of African Americans and their contributions made to our society. Not only will the students, teachers and administration gain knowledge they can gain appreciation and respect for the plight of the African American people, learn of the sacrifices they made which contributed to the civil rights afforded by all in American society today.

In addition, students maybe more likely to share what they have learned with their parents and other peers. They may be able to understand and relate more to different types of people and cultures so that they can see the similarities that we have instead of the differences we have. Learning about African American history will benefit all students, teachers and administrators making schools a place where all children can feel appreciated, important and valued.

The passing of HB7082 will benefit all students, teachers and administrators, we need to implement and develop an accurate curriculum of African American History throughout the Connecticut school system.

Thank you for all that you do in serving our communities allowing for all voices to be heard.

Nakitta W. Brown

