

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

Distinguished Members of the Education Committee,

I'm writing you today to about HB 7082. I very pleased to see this Act come forth. I am in complete support of it being passed and implemented.

People of African descent have had an incredible impact on America and the world. These positive impacts cannot be overstated but unfortunately they are often overlooked. Unfortunately most American school curriculum omits or overlooks the contributions of African people. As a result, we see this ignorance transitioned into an assumption of inferiority of African people which couldn't be further from the truth. Some of the greatest contributions to mankind have been from people of African descent. But if there is lack of this knowledge, one doesn't have to imagine too much how this leads to prejudice and racism in our communities. Educational inequity is just one way in which racism is and has been systemic.

Systemic racism is a major problem in America, if not the biggest problem that we face. The best way to stem the tide is education and proliferation of information. We must work painstakingly to educate the populace in order to inform their worldview.

The statistics are well documented on the wealth gap in America. However, it is largely unknown and undocumented that systemic racism in our society is the foundation of that gap. Until we address the derivative effects of Slavery, the denial of "40 Acres and a Mule", Jim Crow Laws, FHA Redlining, Mass Incarceration, labor market discrimination, The New Deal, and The GI Bill to name a few we will not understand why the economic inequality gap has hit African-American families harder than white families.

The lack of accurate and equal representation of African-American studies in our curriculum sets the stage for our young people to continue (knowingly or not) to perpetuate the systems that lead to all of the inequalities outlined above. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincere regards,
Adrian Bryant
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