



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE LARRY B. BUTLER**  
DEPUTY SPEAKER  
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**MEMBER**  
HOUSING COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Robert Sanchez, Co-Chair, The Honorable Douglas McCrory, Co-Chair, Ranking Members and Members of the Education Committee.

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

My name is Larry Butler and I represent the 72<sup>nd</sup> District of Waterbury. I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of this bill. I believe that it is important to include African-American Studies in the public school curriculum in addition to subject matters already being taught because all students should be exposed to understanding of every influential culture in our society.

There are also amendments Students for Educational Justice (SEJ) have suggested to include with the bill and I would like to voice my support of the following amendments:

- Include “The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States” as a required curricular content in addition to “African American Studies”
- Required racial bias training for social studies teachers and administrators
- The creation of a curriculum-building and Oversight Committee within the State Department of Education that would include teachers, experts on critical race theory and students

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Butler  
State Representative  
72<sup>nd</sup> District