

HB7082- Cara Cancelmo

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

My name is Cara Cancelmo and I am a sociology doctorate student at the University of Connecticut. I was raised in NYC but I am the daughter of a Hartford born father and have spent all of my childhood summers on the Connecticut shore. I am a former proud employee of the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center. I love this state, and I want to see it do better when it comes to issues of race and racism.

I now teach Introduction to Sociology to UCONN students who come from all over the state. It is deeply alarming to me that the vast majority of my students come into my classroom with extremely limited knowledge about our nation's history of slavery. They often view information about history as a political stance, which is a deeply troubling issue in our current political climate. It seems clear this skepticism comes from the students not understanding why, if this history is true, they have not learned about it prior to coming to college.

It is my view as a sociologist and an educator that the lack of knowledge of history is a massive part of what contributes to this country's continued legacy of racial inequality, both institutionally and interpersonally. I am writing to express my strong support for HB7082.

I would specifically like to voice my support for the following amendments:

1. **The amendment of the bill language to include "The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States" as required curricular content** (in addition to "African American Studies")
2. **Required racial bias trainings** for social studies teachers and administrators
3. **The creation of a curriculum-building and oversight Committee** within the State Dept. of Ed that would include teachers, experts on critical race theory, and students

Sincerely,

Cara Cancelmo