

My name is Giacomo Cantoni. I am studying towards my Criminal Justice major at the University of New Haven. I went to a public high school in Winchester, Massachusetts and a public middle school in San Jose, California. This is my testimony in favor of House Bill 7082.

Thinking back on my history courses, in both middle school and high school, the topic of African-American history rarely came up. We might have had the occasional lesson on the Underground Railroad or the Civil Rights Movement during Black History Month, but the majority of the curriculum was dominated by stories of white men in power. The inclusion of African-American studies in all school curriculums are necessary in order to grant the accessibility to allow for complete understanding of events and people that shaped the way our nation is today. In a generation where the majority of our knowledge stems from social media, movies and music, the importance of possessing a correct and complete understanding for any influential point throughout history becomes ever more so important. Furthermore, the exclusion of such a significant and crucial part of our nation's history is a social injustice to the people, past, present and future, who are directly affected by it, as well as the young minds who are not receiving such inspirational information.

Thank you for your time,

Giacomo Cantoni