



Why I Support Raised Bill 7082

Good afternoon. My name is Joshua Fee and I am a sophomore at Classical Magnet School in Hartford.

I am a part of the Youth Leadership Academy's Violence and Trauma Team, which talked about ending mass incarceration and getting young men of color jobs. That in itself is a Black history lesson, and this is why I support House Bill 7082.

Black history is needed in the public school curriculum because so many people of color make up the school population.

We only learn about Black history one month out of the whole year, so I feel like it is not fair that we learn about history that's not our own culture ... and then when we are taught white people's perception of our history and it's normally bad.

We focus on the "negative-good things," like Harriet Tubman was a slave and helped people escape. Meaning that we focus on the "negative" lesson, that she was a slave, and the "good" lesson, that she helped people escape.

We talk more about "us" overcoming oppression than what it takes to do that.

We need to talk more about the specific accomplishments we made through the oppression. Like our inventions, our arts, our music and our science.

Thank you for your time and we hope you can support this bill.