

Good afternoon! My name is Justyce, with a 'Y' not an 'I'. I have attended New London charter schools, public school, and am currently enrolled in adult education. I am a member of New London's own; Hearing Youth Voices and I fully support bill 7082 with S.E.J.'s amendments. I am mixed ethnicities to say the least, but I mostly identify as Native American. I am blessed to have a family to teach me where I'm from. In elementary school, my white teacher taught us about slavery and only slavery. In middle school, my white teacher taught us about the benefits of European technology meeting Native tools. In high school, my white teacher wrote notes on the board about imperialism, then we copied the notes and turned in the paper. No discussion.

In most curriculum, Native Americans are often referred to as Indians. This is because when Christopher Columbus docked, he assumed based off the Natives skin color, that he was in India. From that point on it just stuck, even to this day most people don't know that. I didn't know that until my father corrected me on it, I should have learned that in school.

This bill will make a bigger difference than I believe most of us realize. Prejudice is a learned behavior, but so is acceptance. Teaching children of all races about all races will benefit the world as a whole. Our kids, our youth... they are the future. We hope and pray that when we leave this Earth, they will do the right thing but as of March 6th, 2019, we aren't providing them with the knowledge or tools to fix it. Teach kids about religion the right way, and prevent wars. Teach them about cancer awareness and self-examinations and save a few lives, maybe even spark the brain that will save them all. Teach'em about Global warming and climate change, and watch them turn it all around.

In middle school I remember learning about animal cruelties and how chickens are treated before they're slaughtered. That week, I threw a fit over some Beefaroni and became a vegetarian. That lasted almost 5 years.

Jane Goodall, an honorary member of the World Future Council once said, "You aren't going to save the world on your own. But you might inspire a generation of kids to save it for all of us. You would be amazed at what inspired children can do."