

Akilah Manning
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To the members of the Education Committee.

I'm writing in support of HB 7082 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

As a student of the Passage, Inc. program, I was able to learn a lot about African American history than I ever would've learned in school. Learning my history has taught me to love the color of my skin and where my people have come from. Ms. June untaught me what I learned from commercials, that Africa is more than starving children and poverty. Sadly, history textbooks that are being studied in schools lack a depth of African American history and sometimes sugar coats slavery. Topics such as slavery should be taken way more seriously, and students should be able to understand how slavery affects society today, and how African Americans are still oppressed. The protests that have been happening, such as the Black Lives Matter movement, should be discussed and analyzed. It isn't okay for students to be as ignorant as they are about Black history, most people don't even know there was a black wall street, I had to figure that out on my own as an adult, that should be in our texts books. Instead, we're taught over and over again that George Washington Carver invented peanuts. Don't get me wrong, that's an important part of history, but there's such more that we can be learning. Students should not have to wait until they're in college and taking an African American studies course to learn more about our history, it should start when we're younger so we're less ignorant when we reach college. I believe that it is very important for there to be an opportunity for students to study African American history in public schools because it is a chance for students of all ethnicities to gain more knowledge on important parts of history that impacts us to this day.

Thank you.