



### Why I Support Raised Bill 7082

Good afternoon. My name is Tyrek Marquez, and I am a senior at the CREC Civic Leadership High School in Enfield.

My Youth Leadership Academy Team examined poverty, which is part of the history we need to study. But it is not the only part.

I feel like Black History deserves to be taught more deeply than in just a single month designated for that purpose.

It's out of respect that it should be taught – and with attention to more of the positive things that have happened in the Black historic community.

The Black community and the history behind it doesn't get spoken about for a long enough time in the other 11 months of the year.

February is labeled Black History month, but after February we're on to a new topic.

Also, a lot of information is recycled and repeated. We hear about Martin Luther King, and Rosa Parks, and slavery; we always hear the negative stuff.

"Recycled" history seems to just go through the motions, and to concentrate in the month of February alone.

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#### **Additional Points:**

It is important to consider voting rights, as I had the opportunity to do in connection with the Get Out the Vote Eighteen X 18 Summit, when we called for encouraging voting rather than suppressing it.

To understand Black Lives Matter, take a look at the DeRay McKesson book, *On the Other Side of Freedom: The Case for Hope*.