

Jennifer Marshall-Nealy,
Councilwoman Town of Bloomfield, CT
57 Cliffmount Drive
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RE: House Bill 7082, An Act concerning the inclusion of African American studies in the public school curriculum.

This bill is a good start; however, it doesn't go far enough. How can anyone be sure that each district will implement it? How can anyone be sure that the educators who will be teaching students, are teaching the truth? Would this be a graduation requirement? The truth being more African American history than that of our beloved Martin Luther king, Rosa Parks and George Washington Carver? What happens when white parents and students show opposition?

Several years ago, while working at The Big Picture high School, I attended an education conference at a casino, where there were educators from approximately 160 or so Connecticut school districts. There were only about 5 BLACK educators in attendance. The moderator asked "HOW DO YOU TEACH SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU? None of the non-African American educators had a clue! This was a travesty. Here we are several years later, and still many white and possibly others as well (educators are ill equipped to teach African American studies).

America was built on the backs of slaves. No other race of people was brought to this country and forced to work while being separated from their families, whipped, burned, hanged, and tormented while building this country. Who were unjustly forced to build this country and NEVER received their 40 acres and a mule. My ancestors (African Americans).

Again, This is a good start, but it is incomplete.