

Hi, my name is Alyssa McMahon and I currently am a student at the University of New Haven, and I support the House Bill 7082, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of African- American Studies in the Public School Curriculum. As a college student, many professors teach us as they say to “refresh our memory” because they think we have covered it in high school, however that is not the case. Currently in many of my classes, we talk about African-Americans in history very briefly and we think it isn’t important. Many states don’t allow certain schools to teach certain topics to us because they don’t think it is as important as some other ones. However, teaching African-American Studies in public schools should be one of the important topics to cover. Studying black studies is studying the way black people all over the world were back then in history, study their culture, sociology and even their religion. It allows us to expand our knowledge and maybe culture a little bit. Black people every day sit in a classroom and learn about white culture and history and religion, so what makes this different from that?

Passing this act will allow me and every other criminal justice major today, learn about how black people feel, think, act and etc. Lately, there has been issues with cops and black people, and we don’t know why. There’s no reason to make them feel like they’re misplaced or targeted. This topic is very important to have knowledge on going into the academy. This act will prove that not everything is about white people, and I’m sure no one realizes how we leave this study out of our everyday curriculum. Let’s stop leaving it out and take a stand. Let us make it mandatory in more than just thirteen states.