

Dear Members of the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Krista Miller, I am a student at Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School from New Haven and I am a member of the Citywide Youth Coalition. I support Bill 7082 with SEJ'S amendments.

This bill is important to me because growing up in a broken education system a lot of "African American History" Started with slavery and most teachers didn't even touch on the countless slave resistances that occurred or any black figure that contributed to modern day activities and inventions. As a white person teaching a history that's "Not Yours" it's hard to sympathize with what you are teaching. As a result of this educational set back I sought out to research my own history and my friend referred me to Citywide Youth Coalition which is sad that I'm learning the history our education system should be teaching me at a local non-profit I'm very thankful to be able to be in a space to learn about the history of race and racism and how it has impacted communities of color. Although I know this won't solve the deeper problems in the United States this is a great step towards unity and inclusion. It's important because a lot of black and brown children are being taught that their strong ancestors are weak because they are leaving out vital things like slave resistance, Social justice movements, the African diaspora, and the many contributions our ancestors have made. I think this will impact the students' views on themselves and their skin color, bring new role model opportunities for minorities. This bill will not only better our communities and education system but will allow our children to know more about the diaspora and lineage

We Are Calling For:

1. The bill to require The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States in the CT curriculum
2. Required racial bias trainings for social studies teachers and administrators
3. the creation of a curriculum-building Committee within the State Dept of Ed that would include teachers, experts on critical race theory, and students

Why include The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States?

Including this additional content will help students learn:

1. African American history = American history
2. The history of the creation of the concepts of "race," whiteness, and anti-Blackness
3. The role racism played in the formation of the United States
4. about their ethnicities and countries of origin, and how their ethnicities came to fit in the American conception of race

AND will help us ensure that the delivery of the content is effective, high-quality, and consistent with the vision of the law and the needs of our constituents.

Thank you for your time,

*Krista Miller*