

## **Template Testimony for Young People (adults feel free to adapt)**

**Instructions:** Email your testimony to the following email: [edtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:edtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

**With the subject line: “HB7082- YOUR NAME”**

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

My name is Anthony Mitchell, I am a student at Common Ground Charter School from New Haven and I am a member of SEJ Leadership. I support Bill 7082 with SEJ's amendments. This bill is important to me because growing up I did not have a significant amount of knowledge about the background of race and racism. I also did not realize that the history I was learning about was not truly American history but European-American history.

I come from a very diverse family with various ethnicities: middle-eastern, African American, etc. I was always confused why out of all the diverse ethnic backgrounds that the U.S is host to why are we only learning about White/European effects on the construction of the U.S. Growing up this really hurt my confidence and affected me on a mental and emotional level. Making constantly wish I was white and ashamed that other kids parents judged me as a trouble maker. I feel as though this will make a huge difference in the mindsets of people and appreciate people like me to respect themselves as individuals.

I did not realize this as a problem until I joined SEJ as a freshman! No one should have to wait this long to learn about such an issue outside of school. I highly support this bill and believe of how strong of a change it will make. Please consider how this bill will help hundreds of students of color to appreciate and love themselves and for others to respect the diverse cultures and histories of everyone.

Thank you for your time,  
*Anthony Dy-Lon Mitchell*

