

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

My name is Claire Pritchard, I am a student at Trinity College from Hartford and I am an intern with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. I support Bill 7082 with SEJ's amendments. This bill is important to me because the only way to avoid repeating the past is by learning about it. A factual education that reflects our country's diversity while educating students on our history of prejudice is necessary to make sure that these atrocities are never repeated.

As a student, my history education has been extremely limited diversity-wise. I learned all about the white men that stole this country from the people already living here, and how they exploited land, resources, and people to build the country we now know. We have come a long way from the slavery, disease, and injustice that ran rampant during our country's founding and for decades after, but this is not all thanks to white people. People of color have played a huge role in the development of our country and their actions deserve to be remembered through curriculum just as much as white people.

As a white student, I believe my education would have been vastly improved by the inclusion of people of color in our history curriculum. Diversity has been proven to improve performance in teams and businesses, and this is true for our country as well. Our diversity is what makes us great, but we have to celebrate this diversity to really appreciate it. Acknowledging the vast contributions of people of color in school curriculum is a major step toward embracing our diversity and benefiting from it.

I hope that in the future school curriculum reflects an accurate view of our history, from the atrocities we should be ashamed of to the major contributions by people of color we should be in awe of.

Thank you for your time,
Claire Pritchard