

March 6th, 2019

Testimony **in support** of amendments to:

House Bill 7082: An act concerning the inclusion of African American Studies in the public school curriculum

AND

House Bill 7083: An act concerning the inclusion of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies in the public school curriculum

Submitted by: Shannon Raider 10 Field St. New Haven CT 06515

Dear Representatives, Governor Lamont, and community,

I am a white parent of a white New Haven Public School child. My child is in kindergarten so we are at the beginning of our relationship with NHPS. We are committed to public education in the life of our child. Our school curriculum needs to reflect the lives of the community it serves and represent the history of all identities as it weaves us together in ONE history. All children need to learn the hard and oppressive history of white supremacy on the lives of people of color in our country and in our history.

I support the amended bill language suggested by “Students for Educational Justice (SEJ)” in creating a strong and combined bill that reads: An Act Concerning The Inclusion Of The History Of Race And The History Of Racism In The United States In The Connecticut K-12 Public School Curriculum.

I support required racial bias training for all teachers and administrators and the use of critical race theory to improve the relevancy of curriculum to our students lives no matter their race. I agree with SEJ students must, “learn the history of the creation of the concepts of “race”, whiteness and anti-blackness, the role racism played and still plays in the formation of our country, and to empower student’s individual ethnicities and how their ethnicities fit in to the American conception of race.”

Thank you for your consideration.