

My name is Zeraiah Ramos, I am a senior at Science and Technology Magnet High School in New London and I am a member of Hearing Youth Voices. I support Bill 7083 and Bill 7082 with Students for Educational Justice's amendments.

I have a portrait in my house that has 3 women
1 African woman, 1 Spanish woman, and 1 Native American woman
I've been taught THIS is what it means to be Puerto Rican.
Yet THIS only left me in more confusion
I felt out of touched, unaware of how to claim my identity
My lack of knowledge only grew to curiosity
Then my journey to learn more brought me to AncestryDNA
62% Spaniard, 25% African, and 13% Native American yet 100% Puerto Rican.
This was the only access I had to know my identity yet my journey of curiosity started to take a pause
Where do I go to gain knowledge beyond these percent signs
and where do others like me go?
My answer lies in HB7083..... a history designed to bring my curiosity to rest and find peace to know myself
Both bills HB7083 and HB7082 are blessings for our communities, for the beautiful black and brown youth in CT
A stepping stone for our state to be an example to teach others, White history isn't all history
And that
Connecticut not only values the importance of knowing history but wants us
to be empowered by the knowledge from the past to build better futures for tomorrow.

Thank you,

Zeraiah Ramos