

Re: House Bill 7082; an act concerning the inclusion of African American Studies in the Public-School Curriculum.

Ilda Ray

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Dear Mr. Gibson,

My name is Ilda Ray. I am the mother of an African American 11th grader in Windham High School in Windham CT. I have been serving on the Board of Education for the past year. I am also a member of the Windham/Willimantic NAACP branch.

It's sad so many of our students don't know about slavery, the 13th Amendment and that our schools only discuss African American studies during Black History month in February.

This bill would have a great impact on Windham Public Schools and all our schools in CT. The inclusion of this valuable information would assist in improving the quality of education for all students because African American History is American History.

I feel that if our students understood what our ancestors went through to get the right to vote, they wouldn't take this privilege for granted. If they could understand how hurtful the "N" word was and is, they wouldn't even put an a at the end.

Thank you Representative Gibson for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely, Ilda Ray