

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

NOTE: your testimony should not be more than 1 page (max 1.5 pages). Focus on YOUR story.

PLEASE: replace the **yellow** and *italics* with YOUR OWN WRITING. This is just meant as a guide to help you think and write. **Your final testimony should be only your own writing, please remove all the instructions and suggestions.**

Instructions: Email your testimony to the following email: edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

With the subject line: “HB7082- YOUR NAME”

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

My name is Alona Santiago. I am a student at Metropolitan Business Academy in New Haven and I am a member of SEJ/ Hearing Youth Voices/ etc. I support Bill7082 with SEJ's amendments. This bill is important to me because I'm getting to know about the depths of African-American history and not just skim through a powerful effect that led to where I am today, where we all are today.

I come from a mixed background which includes Asian, Hispanic, and African American races. Growing up in New Haven, I've never really had any teachers that shared any of my races, especially my history teachers. The most they would teach us about important people that are Hispanic and African American would be around the time of Hispanic heritage month and African American History month. I especially get the question “What is Laos?”. My schools never really taught me about all of my races as they should. I would enjoy a class that would teach me about my history.

Passing this bill would mean not only me but every kid in Connecticut will be able to learn about something deeper than what is being taught now. Everybody is affected by African American history yet not everyone knows exactly what truly happened. This bill will bring more knowledge to the youth and peace to the communities!

Thank you for your time,
Alona Santiago

