

My name is Annie Steinbrecher and I live in Marlborough Connecticut.

I would like to ask you to vote for House Bill 7082, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

We need to understand Black history to move forward from racism in the United States. We are NOT where I thought we were. I never knew the extent of racism in this country. I'm not black, it wasn't my fight. How wrong was I? Very, very wrong. Bringing in Black history will show students the good and valuable contributions black Americans made to society. How they overcame the odds. It will bring a sense of compassion. I didn't know why Black Face was so bad, who was Shirley Chisholm? What are dog whistles? All this I learned in the past two years.

In my own town, the head of the Marlborough Republican Party called Obama a racist. You read/heard this right, he called OBAMA a racist. This is very scary to me, does this bother you?

Look around, why are all blacks in Hartford and Bloomfield. Why are there not more in Marlborough? We need to fix this and end racism. We are all brothers and sisters.

Thank you for your time.