

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

My name is Caprice Taylor, I am a voting constituent from New Haven, raised in Connecticut, Harvard Graduate and proud aunt, sister and supporter of positive youth development in Connecticut. I support Bill 7082 with SEJ's amendments. This bill is important for the growing population of people of color in Connecticut and for all. Understanding the value added of people of color to our collective US history is key to overcoming racism, both systemic and internalized oppression.

If we are to succeed as a State, and as a Nation, we should remove the grip that fear has over our differences and embrace knowledge as a means to remove fear, increase self-love and the capacity to care for one another as human beings. It is time. I went through the process of formal education for over 14 years. I am currently teaching at a local community college. I know that despite those many years of being involved in education as a student or a professor, many adults lack information of the reality for people of color and the systemic lens. This leads to blaming "the other" or self-hate.

As a black Guatemalan, my fifth grade teacher indicated that no one cared enough to learn about Latin American history and the role the US played. This was a statement made after I responded to her question of what else we should cover in class considering that we sped through her curriculum. I suggested to cover Latin America and Asian American history chapters that were untouched. She dismissed and said no one cared enough to want to learn. That history forced my family to flee violence and live in the US. Fortunately, I was raised by parents who shared with me our culture, history and the belief that all human beings are born with the capacity to do good in this world. They taught me how to question what is deemed as the "truth" for our story was never reflected in main stream media.

Our public schools need to counteract the racism and lack of information about the investment that people of color have made into making "America Great", too often under oppressive circumstances. Please support this bill. Allow for children of color to be rooted strongly in their history and others to understand. It is time that humanity awakens and we can be aware of what aspects of the past we will no longer carry forward. It is time to know what aspects we can celebrate as a human race. For far too long the stories of so many have been silenced from "his-story".

Please support the The bill to require The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States in the CT curriculum;

Required racial bias trainings for social studies teachers and administrators;

the creation of a curriculum-building Committee within the State Dept of Ed that would include teachers, experts on critical race theory, and students

SEJ's Suggested Bill Amendments

Thank you for your consideration,

Caprice Taylor