

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

My name is Brycyn. I am a student at cooperative arts and humanities high school in new haven and I am a member of SEJ. I support Bill 7082 with SEJ's amendments.

Throughout my four years of high school I have come in contact with a variety of history educators. They have all been white. Although students may find it hard to really connect with their teachers because of the different race I have a different experience than my current African American history teacher. Although white he genuinely cares about the material he is teaching and really tries to push beyond what the curriculum. He agrees that teachers should do more than just the minimum and that us students should push for more.

I started going to SEJ my sophomore year of high school but really committed my junior year which now plays a huge role in my life. It was so important because it provided me with a safe space to voice my opinions on how to better African American studies. Not the white washed version but the whole truth.

If the bill is passed with our amendments it will require teachers to do a racial bias training. This way there will be no bias feelings towards students based on race. This bill with our amendments is the first step in a battle that should have been started a long time ago.