

My name is Christine Vizuete and I am writing this to state my support for [House Bill 7082](#) An Act Concerning the inclusion of African –American Studies in the Public School Curriculum proposed by State Representative Bobby Gibson who serves the 15th District of the State of Connecticut. I am interested in attending the hearing, but in case I cannot be there, I am writing to submit my testimony of why I am in favor of this bill.

Recently, the Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam, was faced with a photo in his med school yearbook of two people, one in blackface and the other in KKK garb. After his Lieutenant Governor, was accused of rape, talk went on as to who would be third in command should those two resign, and it would be the State Attorney General. The AG of the state also admitted to using blackface.

The theme of blackface was used as a skit on Saturday Night Live. It entailed an ethics director asking staff who else in the office used blackface, brought a myriad of questions from the staff, and concluded they all have, in one form or another. It was more sad than funny. I knew blackface was wrong, but never knew exactly why. I learned that it was during minstrel shows, whites would put on an exaggerated blackface and portray African-Americans as lazy, among other character slurs. We can begin to make a change with education.

I learned white history in school. That day, I questioned why, when we have a shared history, isn't that shared history taught to all and being standard study in our classrooms. To teach all children, black and white that we all have heroes who look like us. Role models who made the world a better place for all people. We can't change our future if we don't know our past. It's my hope that one day we can live as one and gather in peace. [House Bill 7082](#) will be a step towards a better tomorrow for our children.

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