

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

My name is Jamila Washington, I am a student at Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School from New Haven and I am a member of the Citywide Youth Coalition. I support Bill 7082 with SEJ'S amendments. This bill is important to me because as an african american student I would love to see more of myself and the history of my ancestors reflected in our school curriculum. Everytime we talk about black history it's bashing or making black people look bad. My white history teacher likes to look over the fact that black people were mistreated, beaten, and for what the color of their skin. We never take time to deal with the reality of the founding of this country. We don't talk about how the roots of this country are embedded deeply in race and racism and we should be addressing that in our classrooms. For example my teachers said "this part is a little too disturbing it shows black people getting lynched" and I told him no they have to see this it needs to be seen. I feel if you as teacher can not see or talk about the truth and reality when it comes to the treatment of African americans in this country, then why are you teaching. Having teachers attend Undoing-Racism Trainings before teaching the curriculum to be developed for this class will be really important because it will help them get rid of their own personal biases before going into the classroom. It is very important have a curriculum developed around the history of African americans with the inclusion of the history of race and racism in the united states because us as young black people need to know and understand where we come and know the truth when it comes to american history. My friends and I all need this, we need to be informed about all the good our people have done. This would mean so much to me and my future as a scholar. I need this as a young black women.

We Are Calling For:

1. The bill to require The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States in the CT curriculum
2. Required racial bias trainings for social studies teachers and administrators
3. the creation of a curriculum-building Committee within the State Dept of Ed that would include teachers, experts on critical race theory, and students

Why include The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States?

Including this additional content will help students learn:

1. African American history = American history
2. The history of the creation of the concepts of "race," whiteness, and anti-Blackness
3. The role racism played in the formation of the United States
4. about their ethnicities and countries of origin, and how their ethnicities came to fit in the American conception of race

AND will help us ensure that the delivery of the content is effective, high-quality, and consistent with the vision of the law and the needs of our constituents.

Thank you for your time,

*Jamila Washington*