March 6, 2019

The Honorable Robert Sanchez, Co-Chair, The Honorable Douglas McCrory, Co-Chair, Ranking Members and Members of the Education Committee.


My name is Larry Butler and I represent the 72nd District of Waterbury. I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of this bill. I believe that it is important to include African-American Studies in the public school curriculum in addition to subject matters already being taught because all students should be exposed to understanding of every influential culture in our society.

There are also amendments Students for Educational Justice (SEJ) have suggested to include with the bill and I would like to voice my support of the following amendments:

- Include “The History of Race and The History of Racism in the United States” as a required curricular content in addition to “African American Studies”
- Required racial bias training for social studies teachers and administrators
- The creation of a curriculum-building and Oversight Committee within the State Department of Education that would include teachers, experts on critical race theory and students

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Butler
State Representative
72nd District