Testimony in support of Raised H.B. No. 7082 Session Year 2019:
An Act Concerning the inclusion of African American Studies in the Public School Curriculum

Submitted by:
Grady Faulkner Jr.
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Dear Honorable members of the Education Committee,

My name is Grady Faulkner, I live in the city of Middletown and I am a sitting member of the Common Council. As an African American, a Youth supporter, Parent and Community active individual, I believe this Bill to include African American Studies in the public-school K-12 curriculum is long overdue and will solve major educational, cultural and societal issues that have plagued the promise of America. A couple of significant points include 1) it begins to repair the destruction of the cultural foundation that has left African American Descendants of American Slaves; the only citizens without a unifying and identifying Culture. The cultural deficit in our community has been widening and the effect on Self Esteem has been debilitating in our communities. In addition, 2) it’s a chance to begin adequately equipping teachers who teach, administrators who design and manage solutions and legislators who appropriate resources to promote quality, equity and equality of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Even more valuable, re-educating Americans on who Americans are... People historically give little thought to the fact that American History is dangerously inadequate with the absence of African American history. In the 400 years since the arrival of the first African slave, African Americans have spent more time in this country as slaves (>60%), than emancipated free citizens.

I Thank You and I urge you to support House Bill 7082 so that the people of our state can learn the true history of the State of Connecticut and the United States of America. This will economically benefit the State and the Country, by reducing cost of living and increasing the opportunities by utilizing ALL of the country’s valuable human resources. Thank you, and God Bless our journey Forward.

Respectfully Yours,

Grady Faulkner Jr.

3/6/19