My name is Howard Sovronsky and I am the President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. I am here today to strongly urge your support of HB 7082 that would mandate African American History be incorporated into the curriculum in all schools in Ct.

African American history is America’s history that must never been minimalized. The very fabric of our country has been formed by the outstanding contributions African Americans have made in the areas of science, technology, music, theater, education, social work, business and politics to name just a few.

Such accomplishments came with a price that we must never forget. Slavery, Jim Crow, the Hartford riots on 67’ are stains on that fabric that must be told.

Jews around the world will soon be preparing for Passover, a time when we remember our history and the lessons we can apply to our lives today. We are required to re-tell those stories to ensure that all generations will learn our history which serves as an anchor by helping our children understand their place in the world and the values that have guided us throughout our journey.
TESTIMONY

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We have a similar obligation to all of our children by teaching them about the African American experience; we are creating new opportunities to build bridges of understanding, tolerance and acceptance at a time when such values are so very critical.

Last session, I had the privilege of witnessing the Governor sign into law a bill mandating Holocaust and Genocide education. The bill before you today is just as important. It is our joint responsibility to do what is necessary to insure that our children are given the tools they need to become engaged, productive and successful adults. Studying our shared history, learning about each other’s accomplishments and pains, only strengthens the bonds that connect us on this amazing journey we call America.

Thank you.

Howard Sovronsky