

Written Testimony for SB 1034: An Act Concerning Minority Recruitment and Retention
Education Committee Public Hearing, March 17, 2021

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez and members of the Education Committee,
Hello my name is Tycharmell Denny and I am a New Haven resident. I am here to advocate for Senate Bill 1034: An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention. Growing up in Ansonia, CT there were few to no teachers of color. I made it through the lack of diversity in the school systems, but I knew what I needed when attending. Now I'm not saying that teachers of caucasian descent aren't good enough, but what I am saying is that these schools in low performance districts need more cultural impact.

In my experience, I grew up around kids who lived in broken homes, had no one to turn to and nowhere to go. They still attended school but were lacking academically due to poor moral support. There were guidance counselors who have tried to help, but it never suffices. Why? Because they were not aware of the hardships that many children of color were facing, I mean they had an idea, but no experience. It takes more than a degree to interpersonally connect with kids of color, especially ones who have a rough life outside of school. There needs to be more diversity within the school systems, so that there can be more efficient academic progress. These kids don't need someone who has done research on broken homes trying to help them, they need connection!

Passing this bill will encourage academic recovery, improve the diversity within the school systems, and help stop systemic racism. I believe in the power of the people, so with me stretching my voice, and you coming to a decision to pass this bill, will start breaking the cycle. I hope my testimony helps the process of decision making.

Thank you,

Tycharmell Denny