

Testimony of

Sean Mosley  
**Connecticut Educator**

Before the Education Committee

**HB 7082 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF  
AFRICANAMERICAN STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM and HB  
7083 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF PUERTO RICAN AND  
LATINO STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

**March 6, 2019**

Chairman Sanchez, Chairman McCrory, ranking members Sen. Berthel, and Rep. McCarty, members of this distinguished Committee.

I write to you all once again not only as an educator in the state of Connecticut for more than a decade, but as a concerned teacher of color who has spent his entire professional career working in urban communities helping to improve the lives of all.

My name is Sean Mosley and I am a public-school teacher in Waterbury, Connecticut. I also serve as the Chair of the Ethnic Minority Affairs Commission for the Connecticut Educators Association. EMAC, as we are known, is a standing commission of CEA that believes the organization and its local affiliates are enhanced by the voices of its diverse membership. EMAC promotes awareness of ethnic minority issues and encourages the development of organizational strategies to address those issues.

Last year, the Connecticut State Legislature passed historic legislation which called for the inclusion of Holocaust and genocide studies into school curricula. This legislation was landmark, and as a teacher who annually conducts lessons on the Holocaust and other genocides in the world, I was happy to hear that Connecticut was finally putting in place measures that would ensure that all students would have the opportunity to learn about the atrocities that affected so many in this country and those around the world.

Today, our Legislature is presented with two more bills, H.B. 7082 and H.B. 7083 which would ensure the inclusion of African-American as well as Puerto Rican/Latino Studies in school curricula. The contributions of people from both ethnic groups are pivotal in the story of how our country, and particularly our state, came to be what it is today. Our students would only benefit from having more opportunities to learn about the culture, struggles, and contributions of African-Americans and Latinos throughout history.

As our student population is becoming increasingly diverse throughout all districts, it is crucial that the Legislature acknowledges the importance and the need for school districts to implement content which directly addresses the cultural heritage of a significant portion of many districts across the states.

The Ethnic Minority Affairs Commission of CEA strongly urges legislators to pass this and any legislation which mandates districts to include studies pertaining to populations which have historically been underrepresented and disenfranchised, and we will keep advocating for these and other bills alike each session until we see an improvement in cultural competency in the curricula of all of Connecticut school districts.

Last year's step in passing legislation to include Holocaust and genocide studies in school curricula was a step in the right direction. Let's not stop stepping...and let's keep going in the right direction by including African-American and Latino studies in the curricula as well.

Today, I strongly encourage you and your colleagues in the House and Senate to support HB 7082 and HB 7083.

Respectfully submitted,

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