

Hi Committee Chair McNamara and committee members,

I am writing to express my support for house bill H5836 which would require our schools to offer an ethnic studies class. I support this bill because it is important for our kids to learn about different cultures, appreciate differences, and be good global citizens. The culture and history of European colonialism has been consistently centered in the public education curriculum, often leaving out the many other ethnicities and cultures in our Rhode Island communities. Our diversity is a strength, and sharing it with our students will help them to grow up to be flexible thinkers who recognize the impact of the similarities and differences between our cultures. I believe this bill has the potential to better prepare Rhode Island kids for adulthood and participation in society.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carissa Koski

West Warwick, RI Resident