



### **GIGI HILL**

Hello, my name is Gigi Hill. I am an adult ally with OSPVD. I am writing in support of House Bill 5836. I am calling for this bill to be passed because I know from firsthand experience how important it can be to learn about my culture and history from people who look like me and share lived experiences with me. I earned a degree in Africana Studies from Brown University, and can attest that the course of study I engaged in changed my life. Learning what I did about the history of race and culture in this country (and beyond) helped me to understand more about myself and what I desired to contribute to the world. My hope is for every Rhode Island student to have this same opportunity to develop understandings of their complex history and gain the will and desire to be more present in school and our community. I believe this bill will support the improvement of young peoples' learning outcomes and change lives much like my experience at Brown did for me. I also don't want young people to have to wait until college or later to encounter the curriculum they are entirely capable of telling us they are curious about now. When we trust young people and let their voices lead us, our community only gets stronger. That is why I am asking for you to pass House Bill 5836. Thank you for your time and consideration.