

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am a resident of East Providence. I am writing to you today to express my support for H5836. I support the teaching of Ethnic Studies as part of the required Social Studies curriculum in Rhode Island. As a teacher I know that students learn better when they can identify with the curriculum. This is why the social studies that I learned in Rhode Island growing up so heavily focused on the revolutionary war era, because it was so significant locally.

What that curriculum missed though is the wide breadth of heritage in this area. We can do better as a state to have thorough social studies curriculum that represents key contributions of the many ethnic groups that make up our state, especially those that are typically left out of classes focused on Western civilization and American History.

Sincerely,

Libby Merrill
East Providence