

Dear Members of the Connecticut General Assembly

My name is Shermya Dover-John and I am a constituent of Avon and I am a student at the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury. I am writing to show my support for H.B. No. 6662: An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health. As a young African-American woman, I believe it is my duty to speak up now more than ever about this issue. In Connecticut, there has been a quiet culture of racism especially among the older conservative white generation which has been influencing the youth. If we do not deal with this issue now, Race-related issues will continue to affect us as a state. Our country was built on the ideals that all men were created equal, however, 100 years after the abolition of slavery, white supremacy and hatred of people of color still exist today. If this Bill is passed the lives of so many People of color in this state would be given the tools needed to fight against injustices against them. I have seen too many people lose opportunities for jobs or get redlined out of buying their dream homes because of Race. The support of our leaders would help to influence change in our communities as we know that Connecticut is an extremely Segregated State. All across America, as well as here in Connecticut, we have seen voices raised against racism. I believe that this is bigger than black and white. The lives of so many men and women would be improved thanks to this bill. Something has to be done. In closing, I urge you to support H.B. No. 6662 An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health. Thank you for your time.

Shermya Dover-John,  
Concerned Citizen.