

Dear legislators,

As an 18 year old biracial boy in today's society, the ability to learn about my heritage and culture has been a crucial part of growing into my identity and being comfortable within the person I am. Taking the Black Studies course at my high school not only taught me things about my ancestry I didn't know (and would probably never, had I elected not to join this class), but taught me how to come to terms with my own black identity. Of course, it is my personal opinion that nobody fully sets into their own identity until their time with us has come to an end (not even then, for some), but it is also my personal opinion that I would be much more lost and confused regarding my sense of self had I not received the knowledge and wisdom I've gotten from this class so far. That being the case, I am a strong advocate for HB 4112. I can only imagine how many other students of color have the same eye opening, relieving experience as myself when learning about their own history.

Not only do students of color need the comfort and ease of these classes, though. White identifying students being educated on these things is just as crucial, if not more so. The divide between students of color and white students is critically damaging to both parties, especially in the modern political climate. An opportunity to receive proper education on the history of other cultures can be the deciding factor on if a white student lives a life of ignorance and unintentional (or intentional) racism, or a life of allyship and advocacy.

With sincerity,

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