

Dear, Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Idman Ahmed, I am a current senior in high school as well as a reop student leader. I am in support of HB4099 and I hope that you all will support it as well. As a Black student, I have seen and encountered many things that had to do with my race from racist comments from peers to hearing stereotypes and slurs from peers starting from when I first entered public schooling in preschool. And as a child growing up I didn't know how to handle these sorts of situations and with a lot of my teachers coming from different backgrounds and different races, I am sure they had a hard time handling these situations because it was never done well or prevented it from occurring again. And of course, when my other BIPOC peers brought it to administrations or principle it has been swept under the rug. Seeing all of this play out always made me feel like there was no one there to help when needed the most. And it was frustrating to see teachers tell us to be the bigger person or ignore it when we were the ones getting targeted because of our race. I think this bill will provide support to many students and teachers to better handle conflicts and issues about race. And I strongly believe that resources like this should be implemented and installed in every school district because it just makes going to school more enjoyable and safe. And I hope that no other students have to go through the same experience that I went through and can get support and resources so that they can focus on their academic careers. Thank you again for your time and the opportunity to testify. I urge you to vote yes on HB 4099. Your support will be applied by so many students.