

Gina LeDuc-Kuntz  
Freeport

Dear Members of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Gina LeDuc-Kuntz and I live in Freeport, Maine.

I am writing you today to urge you to vote “ought not to pass” on LD 187, An Act To Require Education about African-American History and the History of Genocide.

I can only speak for myself, but growing up in Topsham, Maine during the 1970s I was taught about African-American history. I learned in-depth about the Triangular Trade, American slavery, the Civil War and freeing of the Slaves.

As a German Language student at Mt. Ararat in Topsham from 7th-12 grade I learned many, many lessons about the horrors of the German Holocausts.

As an AP History student at Mr. Ararat, I learned about our critical documents and events shaping America and about the many early Americans who kicked off both an American and world wide anti-slavery movement.

As the daughter of a Naval Commander who came to Maine with the United States Navy, I learned about numerous threats to American freedoms including the Cuban Missile Crisis and the evils of Communism.

But I will tell you what I never learned until this morning reading this bill: that asserting the United States committed genocide towards Africans-Americans is not original to this bill’s sponsor, but was advanced decades ago by an African-American Communist, William L. Patterson, who charged the United States government with claims of genocide towards African Americans based on the United Nations definition of genocide in his infamous paper, “We Charge Genocide.”

This paper was presented to the United Nations at meetings in Paris in December 1951 by its author, which was well received by the Communist Party but not by the US who, in turn, demanded Patterson surrender his US Passport after his presentation to the U.N.

The bill before you contains language appearing to be lifted straight from William L. Patterson’s “We Charge Genocide.” Paterson employs crimes against the Black individuals as evidence of genocide. Does this mean that if a white person is murdered, then genocide is occurring?

Patterson also cites Court ordered death sentences based on a crime that is punishable by a death sentence, as further evidence supporting the U.S. genocide of African-Americans.

The bill before you is dangerous. It contains dangerous ideologies that will adversely impact our youth rather than instruct them regarding truth of slavery and America's important roles in ending the African Slave Trade.

This bill does nothing to teach our youth about the current, modern slave trade and how to take action to end it.

Lastly, William Patterson, after presenting "We Charge Genocide" requested the United Nations condemn the United States for this alleged genocide carried out against African-Americans.

Is this the goal of the current bill before you; to teach our youth to condemn the United States?

I urge you to vote “ought not to pass.”

Thank You,  
Gina LeDuc-Kuntz