

Lily West
Freeport
LD 2001

To: Speaker Talbot Ross and Senator Duson, and Honorable members of the committee

From: Connor Mills-Dudding, Jaidyn Stultz, Lily West, and Margaret Whitaker

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 2001, An Act to Establish the African American Studies Advisory Council and Require Funding for African American Studies

We are members of the Student Activists in Freeport club at Freeport High School in Freeport, Maine. We are writing as students to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2001.

As students, we feel undereducated in African American History. We haven't been taught the whole story, leaving out bits and pieces that are crucial to a full education about all the people of this country and our history. In a predominantly white state, it is crucial that the youth be educated fully on a culture that many in the rural areas of Maine may have little contact with. Understanding history is vital to understanding the present day and learning about African American history could help to prevent racist ideas from taking root in our generation, around the African American community. Often in the classroom it is put on the teacher to decide how in depth we go into this important history. African American history should include a teaching of Black joy, Black excellence, and Black pride in America today, as well as the impacts of systemic racism.

We believe knowing African American history is impactful on the students in our schools and the culture we wish to create, and should be taught in all Maine schools.

Respectfully submitted,
Student Activists in Freeport