

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 95-20

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SENATE

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1995

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PART 4

1079-1432

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Senate

Wednesday, April 12, 1995

I, too, would like to associate myself with the remarks of Senator Bozek. Having come from a culture that was largely lost over 400 years in this country, I understand the importance of maintaining it and I understand the importance of others understanding the importance of your culture. So I applaud you for this effort and I look forward to sharing in the richness that your culture has shared with our culture.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT RELL:

Thank you, Senator Harp.

Will you remark further? The motion is to refer to the consent calendar. Without objection, it's so ordered.

CLERK:

Page No. 6, Calendar No. 99, SB362, AN ACT
DESIGNATING PRUDENCE CRANDALL AS THE STATE HEROINE.
Favorable report of Committee on GAE. File 134.

SENATOR SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT RELL:

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH:

Yes. I'd like to move adoption of the bill and yield to Senator Freedman.

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PRESIDENT REEL:

The question is on passage of the bill.

Senator Freedman, will you accept the yield?

SENATOR FREEDMAN:

Yes, Madam President. And thank you, Senator Smith.

Prudence Crandall probably is not a familiar name around the Circle. We tried to do that last year by setting aside a day to honor her. But in this particular bill what we will be doing is making Prudence Crandall the state heroine, the counterpart to Nathan Hale.

This particular piece of legislation actually was developed by a group of school children in the fourth grade down in New Canaan. It was part of what I would call a living history lesson. They found out that Prudence Crandall had been in Canterbury, Connecticut during the early 1800's and she ran a boarding school in those days.

At one point in her teaching career, she opened up her boarding school to blacks who came from out of state. It engaged in such an uproar in the Town of Canterbury that the school eventually closed. The General Assembly of the State of Connecticut met and passed laws that would not allow this to happen. It

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would forbid anyone from allowing somebody to bring in an out-of-state person into their school.

Despite all of this, I believe Prudence Crandall was probably one of the first of many of the people to want to truly help people of other cultures in this state. And I think as the children did their research and did their lessons, they also became very respectful for all the things that she had done during a short period of time in the 1800's.

She was never really fully exonerated. The court case that came against her after the law had been passed was never really settled in terms of the Constitutionality of the law that the General Assembly had passed. And she ultimately ended up in Kansas. And she was not only an educator but a poet and an essayist.

I think the children not only did a lot of hard work, but they brought her to our attention. And I think because of this, we in this General Assembly were introduced to her a year ago.

I have been receiving reams of information. The children came up here to testify. They came before the GAE Committee. And I know Senator Nickerson, Representative Young and Representative Fedele have gone into the school and worked with the children as

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the legislation was developing.

I would just like to urge support for the State of Connecticut to have Prudence Crandall as the heroine. And I would like to yield over to Senator Nickerson.

PRESIDENT RELL:

Senator Nickerson, will you accept the yield?

SENATOR NICKERSON:

Thank you very much, Madam President. I do accept the yield.

Prudence Crandall is a fascinating person and this is a fascinating bill. The word that comes to mind when I think of the brief but important history of Prudence Crandall is persevering. She opened a school, admitted black students. It's hard even to say that as a topic that we should be discussing. But that's what she did. She was socially ostracized. She persevered.

She was arrested. She persevered. She was tried. She persevered. She was jailed. They stopped her briefly. But she lit a light which was 100 years before its time, flickering dimly, but today burns a lot brighter because of the memory of Prudence Crandall.

It's fascinating also because of the bill. As you've heard Senator Freedman indicate, the research was done by fourth-graders, not graduate students.

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They brought to my attention, to this Circle's attention and ultimately to thousands of people around this state the name of a marvelous human being, a part of Connecticut history but a little-known one.

So we have a wonderful persevering lady who we honor today for her boldness and courage though she was before her time. And in a way, we also honor the imagination and initiative of fourth-graders who brought this to our attention.

So I'm very pleased to join with Senator Smith and Senator Freedman in urging adoption.

PRESIDENT RELI:

Thank you, Senator Nickerson.

Will you remark further?

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President. If there are no further remarks and no objection, I'd request this be moved to the -- actually, I think I will yield to Senator Harp.

PRESIDENT RELI:

Senator Harp, do you accept the yield?

SENATOR HARP:

I do. Thank you.

I want to associate myself with the remarks of

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Senator Freedman and Senator Nickerson. I first learned about Prudence Crandall about ten years ago when I heard about their museum in Canterbury and trying to maintain it and keep it alive. And I felt very proud to be a resident and citizen of Connecticut where we had people who were so willing to work on behalf of educating young people of all types at that particular time when it took a lot of courage and initiative, as has been mentioned, to do so.

So I commend the students for their hard work. And I want to support this particular effort. I commend again Senator Freedman and Senator Nickerson for bringing this forward. And I ask that we look to ways in which we can support the ongoing work of the museum as well.

PRESIDENT RELL:

Thank you, Senator Harp.

Will you remark further?

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH:

At this point, Madam President, if there are no other comments or objection, I request that this bill be moved to the consent calendar.

PRESIDENT RELL:

The motion is to refer the bill to the consent

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calendar. Without objection, it's so ordered.

CLERK:

Page No. 8, Calendar 111, Substitute for SB1036,
AN ACT CONCERNING REMONSTRATION TO LIQUOR PERMITS.
Favorable report of the Committee on General Law. File
155.

PRESIDENT REL:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of
the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of
the bill.

PRESIDENT REL:

The question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you, Madam President. What this bill does
is it's an attempt in a small fashion to economize in
the running of the State Government. For those of us
in the Circle who are not aware, remonstrations to
liquor permits is when a placard is posted in front of
an establishment or a notice is put in the paper
regarding the application of someone to have a liquor
permit or to renew a liquor permit.

Basically, the bill before us is a recapitulation
of the notion that at least ten people are required to

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Senate

Wednesday, April 12, 1995

Will all Senators please return to the Chamber? An immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.

Will all Senators please return to the Chamber?

Senator Scarpetti to the Senate Chamber please?

(Roll Call vote taken)

PRESIDENT RELI:

All members have voted. The machine will be locked.

Clerk, please take a tally.

(Tally taken)

PRESIDENT RELI:

Would the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Total number voting, 36; necessary for passage, 19; those voting Yea, 35; those voting Nay, one.

PRESIDENT RELI:

The bill is passed.

Senator Fleming? At this time -- excuse me, Senator Fleming.

Would the Clerk please call the consent calendar?

CLERK:

The consent calendar will be voted on the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber? The consent calendar will be voted in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber?

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Page 1, Calendar 92; Page 2, Calendar No. 52; Page
3, Calendar No. 81; Page 4, Calendar No. 88; Page 5,
Calendar 94 and Calendar 97; Page 6, Calendar No. 98,
Calendar No. 99. And on Page 5, Calendar 95.

SB 503
SB 894
SB 881
HB 6621
SB 879
SB 65
SB 362
HB 5899

The Senate is in the middle of a Roll Call vote.
 Will all Senators please return to the Chamber? The
 Senate is in the middle of a Roll Call vote. Will all
 Senators please return to the Chamber?

Senator Gunther to the Senate Chamber please.

Senator Gunther to the Senate Chamber please.

(Consent calendar vote taken by Roll Call)

PRESIDENT RELI:

Now that all members have voted, the machine will
 be locked.

Would the Clerk please take a tally?

(Tally taken)

PRESIDENT RELI:

Would the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Total number voting, 36; necessary for passage,
 19; those voting Yea, 36; those voting Nay, zero.

PRESIDENT RELI:

The consent calendar is passed.

SENATOR FLEMING:

Madam President.

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GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

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1123-1462

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House of Representatives

April 18, 1995

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker. The Clerk has in her possession of a communication from Deputy Majority Leader, Robert Godfrey concerning consent calendar designations pursuant to House Rule 43. A written expression of agreement between the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader is in the possession of the Clerk.

SPEAKER NARDELLO:

The Chair recognizes Representative Scipio.

REPRESENTATIVE SCIPIO: (93rd)

Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to place the following items on a consent calendar:

H.B. No. 5434, H.B. No. 6787, S.B. No. 503, H.B. No. 6637, S.B. No. 65 and S.B. No. 362.

SPEAKER NARDELLO:

Hearing no objection, so ordered.

THE CLERK:

Also, Madam Speaker, favorable report of the House Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations. H.R. No. 36 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF VANESSA L. BRYANT, ESQUIRE OF AVON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF PARDONS.

To be tabled for the calendar.

SPEAKER NARDELLO:

Hearing no objection, so ordered.

gmh

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 19, 1995

157, Senate Bill Number 503; Calendar Number 163,
Senate Bill Number 65; Calendar Number 164, Senate Bill
Number 362; Calendar Number 170, Substitute for House
Bill Number 6637. I move adoption, but I would yield
the floor to I know there are some members who want to
take some bills off, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER RITTER:

The question is on adoption. Let's hope there are
very few members that want to do this. We will start
with Representative Fonfara.

REP. FONFARA: (6th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request that Calendar
107 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Calendar 107 is hereby removed from the Consent
Calendar.

REP. FONFARA: (6th)

And I would like to yield to Representative
Staples.

SPEAKER RITTER:

I will call on Representative Staples. You have
the floor, sir.

REP. STAPLES: (96th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request
that Calendar Number 97 be removed from the Consent

gmh

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 19, 1995

Calendar.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Calendar 97 is hereby removed from the Consent Calendar. I would also like to yield to Representative Tulisano.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Tulisano.

REP. TULISANO: (29th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Calendar 100, I would ask that that be removed from the Consent Calendar.

SPEAKER RITTER:

100 will be removed. Anybody else? So we have the Consent Calendar minus 97, 100 and 107. Okay. That being the case, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber, please.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the roll call machine to make sure your vote is properly cast. If it has, the machine will be locked. Clerk, please take the tally.

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 19, 1995

Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

On the Consent Calendar

Total Number Voting 148

Necessary for Passage 75

Those voting Yea 148

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 3

SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill passes. At this point, for very, very brief Points of Personal Privilege, I would first call upon Representative Lawlor.

REP. LAWLOR: (99th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For purposes of an introduction?

SPEAKER RITTER:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. LAWLOR: (99th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are joined today by five distinguished visitors, one of whom is no stranger to this House, former Speaker of the House, Irving Stolberg is joined by four visitors from two nations. One, the Czech Republic and the other, Slovakia. I would like to introduce, first of all, Juraj Silvan who is accompanied by his wife, Eva Silvanova, both of whom

JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

PART 2

367-677

1995

SEN. SMITH: I want to let you know that there are a number of us that it looked to us that a system is being manipulated and therefore the system should be changed. And some of us are looking very seriously -- I don't see anything wrong with four or five commissioners being required before you can expedite, particularly in the context of what I saw this past fall.

There is not a question there. It is just a statement, a perception of an outside observer.

MITCHELL PEARLMAN: Yes. There is also one other problem, as I mentioned earlier, and that is if you are going to have an initial decision that is going to take two to three weeks to make because of the Commission's meeting structure, then you don't have an expedited hearing procedure at all.

SEN. SMITH: Then maybe of course, you have to pay if we are going to make sure that your Commission doesn't get tarnished with the kind of events that we saw last fall.

MITCHELL PEARLMAN: I certainly would prefer, as a practical matter, not as a philosophical matter, not to have any expedited hearing procedure than to have one that just doesn't work because nobody can get to use it.

SEN. SMITH: Thank you. Are there any other questions from the committee? Thank you, Mr. Pearlman.

MITCHELL PEARLMAN: Thank you very much.

SEN. SMITH: Next is David White to be followed by the Secretary of the State.

DAVID WHITE: Good afternoon. I am here to speak on behalf of SB201 and SB362, AN ACT DESIGNATING PRUDENCE CRANDALL, THE STATE HEROINE OR THE STATE FEMALE HERO.

My name is David White and I am the Museum Director for the Connecticut Historical Commission which oversees the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury, Connecticut.

While the bills recognizing Prudence Crandall do not represent an initiative by the Connecticut Historical Commission, the agency is excited by the possibility that she will be recognized for her heroic actions in the 1830's.

The house where she conducted her school for young African American women has been a museum for more than ten years and is recognized by the federal government as a national landmark. This designation has been made because of the school that Prudence Crandall conducted in the house and the impact the school has had on American history.

This impact includes a role in the United States Supreme Court desegregation decision in the 1954 Brown versus Board of Education. It seems appropriate that the person who is responsible for turning this fine house into a state and national treasure should receive official state recognition as well.

I have studied the life of Prudence Crandall for many years and I have always considered her a hero or heroine. There are many other little known or unknown persons in our history who are also my heroes and heroines. As with the college sports polls as to who is number one, a determination of who should be recognized as Connecticut's heroine is not as objective as we historians might like, but I can think of no reason why Prudence Crandall does not deserve this designation and believe that she represents for Connecticut what is right about the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SE. SMITH: Thank you. Are there any questions?
Representative Jarjura.

REP. JARJURA: Yes. Thank you. Obviously, I concur with all the remarks about Prudence Crandall, but just so we would know who else was in the running for the State heroine or who else should be in the running, in your opinion, for the State Heroine?

DAVID WHITE: I don't know of any other one. As I said,

I have had in my study of history for the past twenty-five years here in Connecticut, many, many heros and heroines and I would be glad to see many of them recognized, but Prudence Crandall is dear to my heart because twenty years ago or so, I did an enormous amount of research on her and written about her and she stands tall, in my mind, because of that. So I can only come and speak for it and if someone speaks against it, then fine.

REP. JARJURA: Okay. Well just one further question, through you, Mr. Chair. We are having a little debate here. Was Harriett Beecher-Stowe born here in Connecticut? You are a historian, right?

DAVID WHITE: I am a historian, yes and I am not sure.

REP. JARJURA: Okay.

DAVID WHITE: But what a lot what she did is known here in Connecticut. I think that's important.

REP. JARJURA: Okay. Thank you.

SEN. SMITH: I guess, Representative Jarjura, that we can say as with the first America's Cup, there is no second place.

DAVID WHITE: Thank you.

SEN. SMITH: Are there any further questions from the committee? If not, thank you very much.

DAVID WHITE: You are welcome.

SEN. SMITH: Secretary of State Rapoport to be followed by Paul Jacob.

SECRETARY OF STATE RAPOPORT: Thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify here on several bills that are being before the committee.

HB 6687 HB 6731 HB 6663 HB 6608 HB 6291
First, I want to urge the committee's support for SB907, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC OFFICIALS APPEARING IN LOBBYING PAID FOR BY LOBBYING ORGANIZATIONS. This addition to our State's ethic laws for public officials is an important step in maintaining

this bill and actively support it is because as Connecticut develops its tourism industry and it is becoming the fastest growing industry in Connecticut, it seems like a natural evolution for us to begin to market this. We have marketed the State Flag, the State Seal, very limitedly, but this seems something like would work very well in terms of caps, sweaters, ties, scarves, and would be marketed throughout Connecticut, first in Mystic Seaport. Perhaps the Casino either both the Mohegans or Mashantucket Pequots.

And two of my colleagues, Senator Nickerson and Representative Young and myself have worked on another bill last year concerning Prudence Crandall Day. That was successful and designated September 3rd as the Prudence Crandall Day. And we submitted a bill this year, different bills, but with the same concept, certainly.

SB 201
SB 362

REP. BYSIEWICZ: I am curious. Do any of you represent Canterbury? Wasn't the school in Canterbury.

REP. CARON: The school, well it was the home of Prudence Crandall. And in 1830 --- this is funny because I drive by virtually every day and I think it was 1832, she decides to set up a school for Negro girls, to educate Negro girls. And she did this in the face of probably one of the most potent fighting forces known on the face of the earth, prejudiced neighbors, using the tool of ostracism. And it was a very courageous thing to do and I think one of the reasons why we support it certainly is because of that uncommon courage that Prudence Crandall has shown Connecticut to become that kind of beacon of truth for all of us to follow.

But having said that, we do have a number of younger citizens here also and I am going to pass off, at this point, to Senator Nickerson and Representative Young.

REP. YOUNG: I think we will be very brief because we want to have our kids talk. The genesis of this bill is a visit made to this building and to the State Capitol two years ago by the fourth graders

of the New Canaan Country School and the kids went through this building and they saw all the doors embroidered with the State Fish and the State Mantis and the State this and when they got over to the Hall of the House, and they saw the State Hero and all of a sudden they said, how come there is no State Heroine? So they went home and studied and came up with the idea of Prudence Crandall, after surveying several other choices which they will be briefly tell you about.

SEN. NICKERSON: Thank you and thank you for raising the bill. Our heroes in America have historically often been men, often war heroes and that's wise and wonderful and we should honor them. This is a chance to honor another kind of a hero, a woman, but a woman whose bravery was not under fire, but in facing, as Les said, social ostracism, jail and conviction for the crime and it is hard to even pronounce these words, but the crime of educating black children. That was a crime. Not just as to a socially disreputable act, but an actual crime. So she bore a great deal of social pressure and we feel that the students have done a wonderful job in educating ourselves because I didn't know much about it.

So without further adieu, I would like to ask, if I may, to the students of New Canaan Country School to make a very brief presentation with the committee's approval and we appreciate your opportunity to do that.

REP. YOUNG: This presentation is an excerpt from a wonderful pageant that (INAUDIBLE) Bill and myself last year --

SEN. NICKERSON: We've gotten it down to, I think, seven minutes. So it will be real brief.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: That will be fine and actually, it is a good segue into the public portion of our hearing which will be starting at 3:30.

SEN. NICKERSON: This is very public. These are not public officials.

REP. YOUNG: Thank you very much.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Thank you.

STUDENT #1: Good afternoon. May it please the SB 201 SB 362 committee. For the past year and one-half, our fourth grade class from New Canaan Country School has been working hard to urge the Legislature to pass a bill designating Prudence Crandall as our State female hero.

Prudence Crandall was a nineteenth century Quaker teacher who defied this so-called Black law and opened her school to African American girls. With the help of Senator William Nickerson and Representative Leslie Young, we have taken the first step toward our goal. September 3rd has been officially designated as Prudence Crandall Day.

I feel very personally connected to Prudence Crandall because I am a Quaker and Quakers believe that the Devine Light shines in every living being. Without regard to race, sex, or religion or any of the other outward differences between people.

When Prudence Crandall's conscience told her that there was no reason that she shouldn't teach African American girls, she listened to her conscience even though she knew that it would get her into a terrible trouble with the neighbors and the law.

It takes courage to follow your conscience and to do what Prudence did. That is why our class is pleased that Prudence Crandall is in the Connecticut's Womens Hall of Fame and why we are asking you to make her Connecticut's State female hero.

STUDENT #2: Prudence Crandall was a woman who had all the qualities that a candidate for our State Female Hero should have, qualities that we find in our mothers and grandmothers. We recognize the importance of this woman's role in history. It will help future young people to stand up for what they believe in.

In this time of conflict between different groups of people, it is reassuring to think of a woman who was influenced by honesty, truthfulness and equality. We have taken the first step in working together to make something important happen. We only need to be represented as an important part of our State's history. As we toured this building, and noticed many paintings of men, but there were none of women.

Please vote to make Prudence Crandall our State Female Hero.

STUDENT #3: Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream. Now our class has a dream as well. Our dream is to elect a confident woman to represent all other women and their roles in the history of our State.

This woman's name was Prudence Crandall. She struggled all her life for what she believed in. We have worked for a year and one-half. We have learned how difficult it is to change things.

STUDENT #4: We also realize that all of humanity should be treated equality and represented fairly. We realized this when we found out that we have a State insect, a tree, a fossil and a State hero, among others. But we have no State female hero. All of the members of our class hope that we had set a positive example because it is important for people to have something good to believe in.

We hope that the State of Connecticut also believes in our dream.

STUDENT #5: We have come a long way to help Senator Nickerson, Representative Young, Senator Freedman and Representative Fedelli. We hope you too will help us make Prudence Crandall our State Female Hero.

STUDENT #6: We would like to tell you about a portion of Prudence Crandall's life. It all started in the 1800's when prejudice and injustice was still a way of life. As Prudence Crandall sat in her school room one night, she thought long and hard about a problem she was facing.

STUDENT #7: A young black girl named Sarah Harris had asked to become a scholar in Prudence Crandall's finishing school for girls. Prudence Crandall realized that there is only one right answer to the question. The next day Sarah Harris became a student. Prudence Crandall did not know what trouble was in store for her.

STUDENT #8: Many people of the State of Connecticut were angry with Prudence Crandall's decision to admit a black girl into her finishing school. They were even angrier when after been forced to close her school to white girls, she reopened it to girls of color. The townspeople shunned her, tried to poison her drinking water, tried to burn down her home and had her arrested. Still, she persevered.

STUDENT #9: A town meeting was called in protest of what Prudence Crandall had done. In the meeting, Prudence Crandall told them that she was reopening her school to 23 girls of color.

The night before her school was to reopen, the windows were splattered with eggs. The townspeople dared and threw garbage at the school house. Inside, Prudence Crandall taught her students with unwavering dedication.

STUDENT #10: But finally, the townspeople won out. A law was passed for banning the education of any black person who is not a resident of the State. The fine for breaking the law was imprisonment. Prudence Crandall refused to give up for what she believed in. She was arrested and a trial was set for the next session of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn, Connecticut.

STUDENT #11: When Prudence Crandall was locked in jail, the jailer asked what she had done. She opened a school for girls of color, was the reply. The jailer shook his head warily and said, "who would have thought that was a crime."

STUDENT #12: Prudence Crandall was a leader. Not a leader of the masses, because most people were against her. Rather, she was a leader of what she believed in. She was ahead of her time. In fact,

if she walked into the present, she would find that her old battles are new ones. She never gave up and we must follow her example be defending the right of all people to a superb education.

STUDENT #13: Prudence Crandall had all of the qualities we consider necessary for a State Female Hero to have. She showed perseverance in the face of adversity. She showed honesty and imagination. She had the strength to stand up for what she believed in and she had the ability to envision a better future for all.

STUDENT #14: Rather than thinking of herself, Prudence Crandall thought of those in need. At that time, African Americans were a people bound by the chains of slavery. Education was as important then as it is now to all the people of our state regardless of their color.

STUDENT #15: Prudence Crandall heard the cries of those in need for fair and equal education opportunities. Education is the key to success in this world. Education promotes open mindness and honesty.

STUDENT #16: In 1881, Prudence Crandall wrote, "I now know why it was failure in Canterbury when all around me was defeat. This nation has acknowledged the wrong it was doing and is making one creative effort after another to right that wrong."

STUDENT #17: It is our understanding that after the Civil War when so many Connecticut citizens lost their lives for the cause of freedom, that the State paid her for her losses in Canterbury. Now, it is the chance to complete the process of recognizing her bravery.

STUDENT #18: For many months, we have researched the lives of several women who we thought could be possible candidates for a State Female Hero. The only way we could decide fairly about who it should be, was to make a chart of all the qualities and accomplishments and then compare them.

STUDENT #19: We believe that men and women should be represented equally. Prudence Crandall is the

woman who can bridge the gap. Children, especially, need real heroes, both male and female to look up to.

STUDENT #20: People who have dedicated their lives to making the world a better place in which to live. People, who remind us about what should be the most important as we live our lives. In her diary, Prudence Crandall wrote, "it is not the slave alone who is bound by chains. What shackles hold the lawmakers of our highest court? We need unity in heart, mind and hand."

Please vote to make Prudence Crandall our State Female Hero.

We researched several other candidates. Among them, several (INAUDIBLE) Marion Anderson and Harriet Beecher Stowe. But we feel we have made an informed choice.

APPLAUSE

SEN. SMITH: Well who wants to follow that? Thank you. That was very well done and the committee is going to give it very serious consideration. Thank you all.

Representative Jarjura.

REP. JARJURA: Yes, through you. I would like to ask the class. One of the students mentioned that they created a chart in which they compared the accomplishments of various candidates and maybe they could either send a copy or let us borrow the chart temporarily and I will have a copy made and return the original back to the teacher.

SEN. SMITH: That would be great. If you heard the request from Representative Jarjura, that would be helpful to our process.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: And one other thing I would just like to commend the class on recognizing an inequity and doing something very positive to address it and I hope that after you leave the fourth grade that you will continue to do that. All you have to do is

walk around this building and anywhere outside this building and see there is a lot to be done. So good luck.

SEN. SMITH: Alright. That concludes the legislator and agency head portion of the public hearing. We are going to move over to the public section. We have a fairly -- that's right and we have a fairly set rule and we have had some discussions on the committee that after one hour of the agency heads, and legislators, we go to the public section of the hearing and then the agency heads and legislators who have not yet had the opportunity to speak, speak at the end of the public hearing section.

So I apologize for that, but those agency heads and legislators who have not spoken to please wait for a little while.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: And I would say too that looking at our public portion, many of the students that we just heard were signed up so we don't really have a lengthy public portion. So we beg your indulgence to the end of the public portion. We don't think it will be that long.

SEN. SMITH: And with that, our first public speaker is Paul Jacob from U.S. Term Limits.

PAUL JACOB: Thank you ladies and gentlemen of the committee. It certainly is a tough act to follow. And lucky for me, I don't have any other suggestion for heroine.

I am here to testify on behalf of SJR56, A
RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSTITUTION CONCERNING TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, STATE OFFICERS AND UNITED
STATES SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES.

I am going to primarily focus on the Congressional term limits, although I think it is clear that the people of Connecticut, like people throughout this country, favor term limits at all levels of government, local state and especially at the Congressional level.

So it would be something, a boost to our tourism industry. I am sure people visiting the State of Connecticut, people have fondness for the State of Connecticut, would like to have something made of Connecticut's state plaid.

One thing that I noticed when I read over the copy of the bill, a tartan is specified by a thread ratio. The size of the squares is not important. If you were to make a blatant out of this, you will probably want a larger square than if you were making a necktie or wallet.

So, I would like to request that in the bill the thread ratio be included and I have put the thread ratio on the second page of my testimony.

SEN. SMITH: Make sure you leave with us that good technical correction. Just leave that with the Clerk of the committee when you leave.

BRENT MAYNARD: Alright. And I have two more samples of the tartan here. Would you care to retain one?

SEN. SMITH: Sure.

BRENT MAYNARD: Alright. Are there any further questions?

SEN. SMITH: Thank you. Are there any questions from the committee? If not, thank you very much.

BRENT MAYNARD: You are welcome. Thank you.

SEN. SMITH: Next is Alan Turner and company.

ALAN TURNER: Hi. My name is Al Turner and we are from Plainfield Memorial School and we are here to talk on behalf of the Prudence Crandall bill.

SB 201
SB 362

We heard of this through the newspaper and the media from last year and from current events and discussed it and we have several students who have opinions.

LISA STAILING: Hi. I am Lisa Stailing and I think a hero or a heroine is someone who does what they

believe in doing and changes the way things work.

Speaking of a hero or heroine, I think we should have a heroine because women should be able to get recognized for what they do and not just the men.

I think that the heroine should be Prudence Crandall because she taught black people how to read, write, and what the law says.

Prudence Crandall also went to jail for it. Prudence Crandall respected Blacks just like she did the Whites which helped make people realize that the women and the Blacks should be treated equally.

BRANDON FRECHETTE: Hi. My name is Brandon Frechette. And I think the State of Connecticut should have a State heroine, because if we don't then it would be unfair for women.

I think Prudence Crandall should be our State heroine because Prudence Crandall was one of the first teachers to give Negro girls a higher education. When Prudence Crandall admitted a Black girl into her school, all of her white patrons left her school.

After that, she taught only Negro girls. Soon the White men created a Black law that didn't allow Blacks from other states to come into Connecticut to be taught. When the law was passed, the White men put Prudence on trial and she went to jail.

I think a hero or a heroine is a person who has done something great for their state or country. I think Prudence Crandall would be a good state heroine because she gave Black girls a higher education in these ways. She taught the girls the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, different languages and philosophy.

Prudence Crandall also showed the community that all people are created equal and should be created equally.

BETHANY HEDIN: Hi. I am Bethany Hedin and I think we

should have a State heroine because the women could have done something better or more important than the man which you call hero.

Also, men and women were created equally so if we have a State hero then we should also have a State heroine.

The State Heroine should be Prudence Crandall because she did something no woman has done before. It was a good thing to see a woman do. What she did is she gave Black girls an education. She also found the right -- fought for their rights.

I think -- I like that idea because all people were created equally. The Black people, White people and all people should be treated the same. After all, we are all humans. Something that qualifies a person to be a hero is he or she should make an important change in the world, country, state or town. That is exactly what she did by helping the Black girls in Connecticut.

TASHA AVERY: Hi. I am Tasha Avery and I think we should have a State heroine because it would be nice to remember someone that did something special.

So when you hear Connecticut, you will automatically think of that heroine. I want to be proud of something special in my State and I also don't see why not. Why shouldn't we have a State Heroine?

I think it should be Prudence Crandall because she was the one who let Negroes come into her class to learn. She even established a school for them. Prudence Crandall made a very big difference in the people's rights. That's what I think should be a heroine. She did something that affects people in many ways. She affected the Blacks in the good way by treating them as equals and not as slaves. It affected the Whites because the ones who disagreed had a big discussion and argument about it. But the White children wanted a higher education so they didn't want the Blacks to be treated equally. The Whites wanted to be better than the Blacks.

The ones who disagreed was just about all the Whites in the area. And that's why Prudence Crandall went to jail. If Prudence Crandall never did such a thing, imagine how it would be like today. The Blacks still wouldn't be treated fully equal. A lot of things could have went wrong and could be affecting us in a very big way right now.

Prudence Crandall was a very big help in the community because she changed what was going on. She did that by helping with people's rights.

For someone to be called a hero or heroine, they should have done something that changed the course of history. That's exactly what Prudence Crandall did. She dealt with a huge problem that nobody bothered with although the people didn't recognize the problem, or they just let it sit there and rot.

STEVEN LESAGE: Hi. My name is Steven LeSage. I think we should have a State heroine. If we had a heroine maybe that heroine would do something better. It would only be fair if we had one. I think it should be Ella Grasso because she was elected in 1974 and she was our first woman Governor. The thing that Ella Grasso did that was so special is that she stood up for human rights.

Ella Grasso had to prove herself to be a Governor. Since then, a Governor was only a white man's job. The stuff that qualifies a heroine is like to do something for their country, to save lives or to be the first in something. That is why I think it should be Ella Grasso.

ALAN TURNER: We weren't all in full agreement.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: No. I applaud his individuality. I would have asked for Ella Grasso if it was a choice, too.

ALAN TURNER: Frequently, I have heard the call of back to basics and teachers have said that now they are responsible for more than just basics. It seems to me that Prudence Crandall showed us that part of those basics. Also included good citizenship and a respect for all people. In order to be a good

American and in order to be a good human being, we must remember that we are all different and in that difference we are the same. It is the very heart of America's success as a nation. It's diversity is its strength. It is entirely appropriate that Connecticut, a state with a proud and rich heritage is a leader in education. It should have teachers as their state hero and heroine for they not only represent our strength through knowledge, they also represent our willingness to stand by our principles in peace as well as war.

The basics that we need to go back to is a respect for life and the principles on which this country was founded, that all men and women have the right to pursue life, liberty and happiness. All men and women are created equal. What better way for Connecticut to again lead the way than by naming Prudence Crandall as our State Heroine?

SEN. SMITH: I would just like to note for all of you to the extent that this bill does get out of the committee, I would like to invite all of you back whether it comes up for vote on both the floor of the House and the floor of the Senate. You could see a little bit more about how government goes about rectifying historical wrongs.

ALAN TURNER: Okay. Thank you.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: We are hoping there won't be much debate, but --

ALAN TURNER: Thank you.

APPLAUSE

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Joyce Wojtas to be followed by Eric Lorenzini.

JOYCE WOJTAS: Good afternoon. My name is Joyce Wojtas. I am Director of Government Affairs for the Connecticut Construction Industries Association. And I am here to oppose, for the second time this year, a retainage on payments on state public works contracts.

HB 6759
HB 5096

JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATIO
AND ELECTION

PART 3

678-984

1995

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*Prudence Crandall for
State Female Hero*

SB 201

SB 362

*Statemente made in support of this bill by the students
from New Canaan Country School.*

Fifth Graders Press On For Prudence Crandall

by Kristin Quisgard, Fourth Grade Teacher

"The role of the teacher remains the highest calling of a free people. To the teacher, America entrusts her most precious resource, her children; and asks that they be prepared, in all their glorious diversity, to face the rigors of individual participation in a democratic society." - Shirley Hufstедler

"Who would have thought that was a crime?" the jailor commented as Prudence Crandall was led to her cell. A nineteenth century Quaker teacher and abolitionist, she turned her Canterbury home into a finishing school for young women of color in 1834. This went against the Black Law, the segregation statute that forbade the education of non-residents who arrived in Connecticut seeking a better education. Not only was she spurned by the townspeople of Canterbury, but the state brought her to trial where she was found guilty and jailed for her so-called "crime."

One hundred sixty years later, twenty-two NCCS fourth graders, in search of a female hero for the State of Connecticut, decided that Prudence Crandall should have that honor. After months of researching possible candidates, among them Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sibyl Ludington, and Marion Anderson, they chose Prudence Crandall. She had all of the qualities they felt were important for a state female hero. She had made a life-long commitment to what she believed in, she demonstrated perseverance in the face of adversity, she was loyal to those she fought to protect, and she had the imagination to envision a better future. Furthermore, history proved her to be right. Parts of her trial were argued by Thurgood Marshall, the first black member of the United States Supreme Court, who cited her experience when arguing the case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka in 1954.



The first signatures of the day!



Gathering signatures in downtown New Canaan.

One year later, the students, now fifth graders, separated by different classes and even different schools, are still working together to pass House Bill #5819. More determined than ever, they banded together on the streets of downtown New Canaan for the purpose of arousing public support. In their nineteenth century top hats and vests and their long skirts that swept painted crosswalks, they approached the townspeople. Fully committed to the democratic process and knowing full well that their bill could be defeated at the January session, they persevered as they approached one busy passerby after another, asking for signatures on blank, white petitions. Outstretched arms thrust homemade clipboards into the hands of people who seemed barely to have time to listen... at first. But eager faces and excited voices captivated even the most harried passerby, and to these young people, each signature was priceless.

"To the teacher, America entrusts her most precious resource, her children...." How congruous that a teacher become Connecticut's State Female Hero; how fitting that she become the because of the children whose hearts she touched one hundred sixty years later.

Prudence Crandall was a woman who had all the qualities that a candidate for state female hero should have; qualities that the people of our state can relate to; qualities that we find in our mothers and grandmothers.

If we recognize the importance of this woman's role in history, it will help influence other young people to stand up for what they believe in.

In this time of conflict and anger between different groups of people, it is helpful to see someone who was only influenced by honesty, truthfulness, and equality. We have taken the first step in working together to make something important happen. Please vote to make Prudence Crandall our state female hero.

Peter Nisenson.

Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream; now our class has a dream as well. Our dream is to elect a confident woman to represent all other women and their roles in the history of our state. This woman's name is Prudence Crandall.

She struggles all her life for what she believed in. We have only worked for a year and a half, but we have learned how difficult it is to change things.

Courtney Fog

We also realized that all of humanity should be treated fairly. We realized this when we found out that we have a state insect, a tree, a fossil, and a hero among others; but we have no state female hero.

All of the members of our class hope that we can set a positive example because it is important for people to have something good to believe in. We hope that the State of Connecticut also believes in our dream.

Sheila Francois

We have come a long way with the help of Senator Nickerson, Representative Young, Senator Freedman, and Senator Fedele. We hope you too will help us to make Prudence Crandall our State Female Hero.

James Cokurn

We would like to tell you about a portion of Prudence Crandall's life. It all started in the 1800's when prejudice and injustice was still a way of life. As Prudence Crandall sat in her schoolroom late one night, she thought long and hard about a problem she was facing.

Phillip Burgher

A young black girl named Sarah Harris had asked to be a scholar in Prudence Crandall's finishing school for girls. Prudence Crandall realized that there was only one right answer to this question. The next day Sarah Harris became a student. Prudence Crandall did not know what trouble was in store for her.

Molly Melican

Many of the people of the State of Connecticut were angry with Prudence Crandall's decision to admit a black girl into

her finishing school. They were even angrier when, after being forced to close her school to white girls, she reopened it to girls of color. The townspeople shunned her, tried to poison her drinking water, tried to burn down her home, and had her arrested. Still...she persevered.

Taylor Ingraham

A town meeting was called in protest of what Prudence Crandall had done. In the meeting Prudence Crandall told them that she was reopening her school to 23 girls of color. The night before the school was to reopen, the windows were splattered with eggs, the townspeople jeered and threw garbage at the schoolhouse. Inside, Prudence Crandall taught her students with unwavering dedication.

Lilly Cannold

But finally, the townspeople won out. A law was passed forbidding the education of any black person who was not a resident of the state. The fine for breaking the law was imprisonment. Prudence Crandall refused to give up what she believed in. She was arrested and a trial was set for the next session of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn Connecticut.

Megan Melican

When Prudence Crandall was locked in jail, the jailor asked what she had done. "She opened a school for girls of color", was the reply. The jailor shook his head warily and said, "Who would have thought that was a crime?"

Lindsay Garcia

Prudence Crandall was a leader. Not a leader of the masses, because most people were against her. Rather, she was a leader of what she believed in. She was ahead of her time. In fact, if she walked into the present, she would find that her old battles were new ones. She never gave up and we must follow her example by defending the right of all people to a superb education.

Betsy Yordan

Prudence Crandall had all of the qualities we consider necessary for a state female hero to have. She showed perseverance in the face of adversity; she had honesty and imagination; she had the strength to stand up for what she believed in, and she had the ability to envision a better future for all.

Callie Talbot

Rather than thinking of herself, Prudence Crandall thought of those in need. At that time African Americans were a people bound by the chains of slavery. Education was as important then as it is now to all people of our state, regardless of their color. Unfortunately it was not available to all people.

Pascal Phillipe

Prudence Crandall heard the cries of those in need, for fair and equal education opportunities. Education is the key to success in this world. Education promotes open mindedness and honesty.

Reese Eifler

In 1881 Prudence Crandall wrote "I know now why it was not failure in Canterbury when all around me was defeat. This nations has acknowledged the wrong it was doing, and has made one creative effort after another to right that wrong."

Grey Schultz

We believe that men and women should be represented equally. Prudence Crandall is the woman who can bridge the gap. Children especially need real heroes, both male and female, to look up to.

Townsend Ambrecht

For many months we have researched the lives of several women who we thought could make possible for our state female hero. The only way we could decide fairly about who it should be, was to make a chart of all of the qualities and accomplishments of each woman, and then compare them.

People who have dedicated their lives to making the world a better place in which to live; people who remind us about what should be most important as we live our lives.

In her diary Prudence Crandall wrote: "It is not the slave alone who is bound by chains. What shackles hold the lawmakers of our highest court? We need unity of heart, mind, and soul."

Luke Swinford

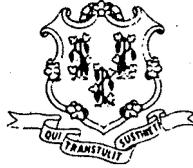
Senate Bill 201 and Senate Bill 362 - AN ACT DESIGNATING PRUDENCE CRANDALL THE STATE HEROINE

My name is David White and I am the Museum Director for the Connecticut Historical Commission, which oversees the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury, Connecticut. While the bills recognizing Prudence Crandall do not represent an initiative by the Connecticut Historical Commission, the agency is excited by the possibility that she will be recognized for her heroic actions in the 1830's. The house where she conducted her school for young African-American women has been a museum for more than ten years, and is recognized by the Federal Government as a National Landmark. This designation has been made because of the school that Prudence Crandall conducted in the house and the impact the school has had on American history. This impact includes a role in the United States Supreme Court desegregation decision in the 1954 Brown verses Board of Education. It seems appropriate that the person who is responsible for turning this fine house into a state and national treasure should receive official state recognition as well.

I have studied the life of Prudence Crandall for many years and I have always considered her a hero (or heroine). There are many other little known or unknown persons in our history who are also my heros and heroines. As with the college sports polls as to who is number one, a determination of who should be recognized as Connecticut's heroine is not as objective as we historians might like. But, I can think of no reason why Prudence Crandall does not deserve this designation, and believe that she represents for Connecticut what is right about the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

David O. White
Museum Director
Connecticut Historical Commission
February 27, 1995



State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATOR JUDITH G. FREEDMAN
TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

ROOM 3303 L.O.B.
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

February 27, 1995

Senator Smith, Representative Bysiewicz, Members of the committee, My name is Judith Freedman, Senator from the 26th district. I would like to speak in favor of Senate Bill 201, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE FEMALE HERO and Senate Bill 362, AN ACT DESIGNATING PRUDENCE CRANDALL THE STATE HEROINE.

This young Quaker teacher endured insults and obloquy, vandalism and imprisonment for her principles and her students. A poet, educator and essayist, she maintained her convictions and dedication to equal justice throughout her life. Arguments from her trial on charges of teaching young black women without permission of local officials were used a century later before the United States Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In 1885, the Connecticut General Assembly apologized to her for the treatment she had earlier suffered. After so many years it would be fitting to recognize her for what she has always been, Connecticut's heroine