

We can't go back and undo the exclusion acts of Oregon's past history, but we can teach the history of these acts in our schools in the hopes of bringing understanding about the racism that lingers in our culture. I am a retired U.S. History teacher with the Bend-LaPine Schools and we did not address the history of excluded groups from our state. This was a huge oversight. I also taught Sociology in which we addressed racism mainly through the writings of James Baldwin, but that was an elective course taken by a handful of students. And even in that class there was much more history that could have been explored if we had had the time. I very strongly urge you to pass SB 683 as one step in our understanding of racism in Oregon and the United States.