

I wholeheartedly support SB 683. It represents a substantial step toward making our young people truly aware of the inherent injustices of systemic racism that pervade American society to this day. This is especially true here in Oregon, the only state to formally enshrine white supremacist language in its original constitution – language that was not removed until the 1920's and not eliminated completely from the state constitution until the first years of the 21st century.

To pretend that racism is not alive and well in our daily lives is naïve at best, irresponsible and destructive at worst. When BIPOC neighbors have been repeatedly stopped by local police – right here in our valley – under unwarranted pretexts and then allowed to resume their travel uncharged of any crime or misdemeanor (...and this repeatedly, 3 and 4 times in any given month-long period) – is scandalous. I am an 80-year old white male and have lived in Southern Oregon for 13 years. I have never once been detained by the police under such circumstances, let alone multiple times in a 4-week period. Now, why is that?

Respectfully submitted, March 7, 2021 at 5:43 PM.
David J. Florian

Racism and racist are strong words that elicit strong emotions. We (none of us) wish to be associated with such a group; yet we (all of us) have been raised in a carefully fabricated reality that admits some points of view and systematically omits others. We owe it to our children to educate them to the truth about our history -- all of it. That truth includes the sundowner laws, the redlining traditions, the Ku Klux Klan. We need to banish forever the whitewashed narrative that has become our present "reality" and replace it with a more balanced version that includes ALL of us -- white, black, brown -- and the contributions we each have made to growing this nation. SB 683 is a first step in that direction. Please support it with your vote.