

While HB 2845 mandated K-12 standards on the “histories, contributions and perspectives of ethnic . . . and social minorities” that “promote critical thinking regarding the interaction between systemic social structures and ethnic . . . or social minority status,” the Ethnic Studies Act does not mention race or racism, nor teaching anti-racist skills, nor does it specifically require such curriculum.

Teaching our history of racism is uncomfortable. It doesn't square with our ideal of equal justice for all, or that we're all created equal. Teaching this history, the ability to recognize racist acts, ideas and policies, and to formulate corresponding anti-racist acts, ideas and policies, is key to eradicating racism. Without ARCA's mandatory standards, teaching this history and these skills will continue to be avoided, enabling systemic racism.

This is a great start on addressing racism in Oregon as well as in America. I fully support SB 683.