

Dear Education Committee,

Oregon has a terrible history regarding race and racism that goes back to the founding of the state. The January 6, 2021 attack on the United States Capitol is among the most recent examples of the prevalence of racism and white supremacy. It is beyond time to teach the truth about history, the history of racism toward Black and BIPOC peoples to our children. They need the truth and they need the tools to make better decisions than preceding generations. The only way to find peace and racial justice and harmony is to understand the truth and begin the process of eliminating conscious and unconscious bias.

I am ashamed to tell you that I never learned the racial history of this country until this past year when my husband and I took the initiative to find it. I have a BA in History, but was never taught about the racial basis for our US Constitution or the racial history of Oregon. That is very sad commentary coming from a 72 year old college graduate. Please save our children from ignorance. Do not let local school boards perpetuate racial ignorance. We must eliminate systemic racism and education of our children is one unquestionably necessary step in that process. Please pass SB 683.