



Oregon State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Education  
Att: Chair Senator Michael Dembrow ([Sen.MichaelDembrow@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.MichaelDembrow@oregonlegislature.gov))  
Cc: [LewFrederick@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:LewFrederick@oregonlegislature.gov)  
900 Court St. NE, S-407, Salem, Oregon 97301

March 9, 2021

**Subject: Support for Senate Bill 683 -- Public Instruction on Oregon's Racial History**

Dear Chair Dembrow and Senate Education Committee Members,

We are parents of Black students in the Beaverton School District and concerned community members of Beaverton. We are members of the Beaverton Black Parent Union, a collective of parents and families with Black children organizing to support their success through culturally relevant education and resources within the Beaverton School District.

We write to express our support for Senate Bill 683 (Frederick), which requires school districts to provide instruction on the racist history of the United States and the state of Oregon based on curricula requirements developed by an advisory group to the State Board of Education.

**Senate Bill 683 is a critical step towards reconciling the racial exclusion, terror, and genocide experienced by Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander and other groups considered non-white throughout our state's history.**

In an era where the history of racism in our state and nation is easily accessible online and in libraries yet our public school curricula neglect teaching, students of color feel betrayed that they have to seek these learnings out on their own, and continue to lose faith in our public education institutions. The legacies of systemic racism are evident throughout our communities and it is critical that our students -- of all racial and ethnic backgrounds -- understand the root causes of the racial inequities and injustices they witness in their schools, neighborhoods, and in the media.

It is imperative that these histories be sanctioned and incorporated into the state curricula standards in order to honor the lives of those lost and impacted by the racism, terror and genocide consistent with Oregon's history as a territory and then a state.

We respectfully request your support for SB 683. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jordan Thierry at (503) 544-3493 or [BBparentunion@gmail.com](mailto:BBparentunion@gmail.com).



Sincerely,

**Beaverton Black Parent Union**

[bbparentunion@gmail.com](mailto:bbparentunion@gmail.com)

Coordinating Committee:

Justice Rajee, Desiree Williams-Rajee, Veronica Jones, Zakkiya Ibrahim, Kaman Minor, Susan Elliot, and Jordan Thierry