

I stand in firm support of HB 2526, a bill to designate the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day. For too long this nation has lived under a false impression of history, and has ignored the intergenerational tragedy of white colonization throughout the Americas. The effects of colonization, traumas that can and will exacerbate the worst ailments to physical and mental health, are felt across Native communities and deep within our own. I stand with my partner and their family, descendants of the Mdewakanton band of the Santee Sioux, who wish to see record corrected and their history acknowledged. In the grand assessment of Oregon's attitude toward Indigenous peoples, there is much to account for; this bill takes a small, but important step in that direction. It is imperative that Oregon join the 13 other states and hundreds of local communities who have already taken this step. Please vote yes.