

I fully support this bill and its intent. Racism is a public health crisis and is perpetuated in many more forms than are plainly seen. Full disclosure I am a white man. For my entire life I have instilled in myself that racism is a terrible thing that is somehow my responsibility to 'solve.' While I can heal myself and help expand how I interact with others from different cultures, the systems that operate within the State must also be healed. I believe this bill aims to accomplish that feat and will place Oregon on a path toward equality.

Oregon was founded as a Whites Only state by law - something that is unimaginable today. The systems built perpetuate this initial harm and still serve to undermine progress and stability of the BIPOC communities in the State. Portland seems like a 'white utopia' on its face and yes I know that there are undeserved communities here in the City I call home. I want everyone to be able to enjoy the city and state as I do. I want racism to be a thing of the past. And frankly it can be, but not until the State (and federal government) confront how racism is intertwined in some of the systems we still use today (especially the policing system). We can do better than we have been. I am encouraged that the State is taking steps to advance collective understanding about race so that maybe the 21st century has a chance of being one where we all know that we are simply humans.