

Dear Oregon House of Representatives,

My name is Savy Cook and I am a student at David Douglas High School in its senior offered Black Studies class. I am writing in support of HB4112. This is a wonderful opportunity to hopefully expand the chance for students to get ethnic classes and learn about different cultures in dept. It doesn't even have to only be black studies, there are Latinx studies, queer studies, Asian studies and so much more, we learn about the tragedies in social studies but in these classes, we get to see the success and learn about their culture and get to more understand their struggles that some of us will never get. As I mentioned above I am enrolled in my school's black studies class, and I am a young white queer student, while I have grown up around my own share fair of prejudice towards LGBTQIA+ people I will never truly understand the struggles that people of the Black community has gone through but just during my four months that I've been in class I have learned so much. I feel we need to learn about different ethnic backgrounds, we need to know what has shaped America into what it is today from all sides and not just the black and white picture-perfect image we are fed in elementary school. As a young queer person, I wish there had been a queer studies class for me to take, I would have loved to feel represented and see people from different backgrounds learn about my culture and something that we have gone through but also all the amazing things that a lot of people don't know about, I can only imagine that is how other students feel about their ethnicity being the center of a class. I know there are many that say kids shouldn't learn about these kinds of things that we are wanting to ruin the American image and make it all about race, but that's not true, we need to know these things so our country can grow so that future generations can not have all these divides we have now, so we can work towards actually having the picture-perfect America people are claiming we're ruining. So please when you vote, vote to pass HB4112.

Sincerely,

Savy Cook