

Submitter: Amara Lowe
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB421

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Greetings all,

My Name is Amara Lowe and I'm a freshman at Ashland high school. All my life I've lived in Oregon and even as a little girl I noticed the lack of diverse role models in our community. When I went to school, there were very few kids who looked like me, and next to no adults. By the time I was in 8th grade, there were only three known black adults working in my school district. Even then, I still didn't feel represented. Being mixed in a town where there's a lot of white and very little black makes you feel like you never quite fit in. At recess you're too white to be princess Tiana, but not white enough to be Cinderella. It is only now, how many years later that I feel like I truly belong in my school community. Ashland high school has a black vice principal and lots of student affinity groups. Much like what SB 421 would do, my school highlights and uplifts our diversity. SB 421 would give a voice to marginalized youth all over Oregon, in matters that would affect them and their family. As legislators it is your decision, but if you take away one thing from my testimony, please let it be this: America is one big melting pot, instead of trying to hide this, I say we embrace it.