

## Enrolled

# Senate Bill 450

Sponsored by Senators PATTERSON, MANNING JR, Representative ANDERSEN, Senator FREDERICK, Representatives BOWMAN, ISADORE, NELSON; Senators JAMA, LIEBER, MCLANE, SOLLMAN, Representatives CHOTZEN, EVANS, GAMBA, GRAYBER, HUDSON, KROPF, LIVELY, MANNIX, MCINTIRE, MUNOZ, NATHANSON, NGUYEN D, NGUYEN H, PHAM H, WALTERS, WATANABE (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER .....

### AN ACT

Relating to Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas Ruby Nell Bridges was born to Abon and Lucille Bridges on September 8, 1954, in Tylertown, Mississippi; and

Whereas Ruby was born in the immediate wake of Brown v. Board of Education, which ruled on May 17, 1954, that racial segregation in school was unconstitutional; and

Whereas the southern states were vehemently opposed to integration, and when Ruby's family relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1959, she attended a segregated kindergarten; and

Whereas in 1960, Ruby was one of six Black children in Louisiana to pass a test to determine whether they could attend the previously all-white William Frantz Elementary School, and ultimately she was the only Black child who chose to attend the school that year; and

Whereas Ruby made history on November 14, 1960, when she walked to William Frantz Elementary School flanked by four deputy U.S. marshals, the first Black child in the south to attend a previously all-white school; and

Whereas Ruby's brave walk that day was immortalized by Norman Rockwell in his iconic 1964 painting, The Problem We All Live With; and

Whereas though Ruby's life as a student continued to be fraught with blatant racism and threats of violence, she never missed a single day of school; and

Whereas Ruby Bridges has been a tireless advocate for change throughout her life, and through the Ruby Bridges Foundation, speaking engagements and her series of children's books, she continues to strive for an end to racism; and

Whereas the United States education system has progressed immensely from that November day 65 years ago, but racism still plagues the school experience for students in Oregon and throughout the United States; and

Whereas Salem-Keizer Safe Routes to School honors the impact Ruby Bridges has had on the United States education system through its participation in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, a nationwide day of dialogue for students, families, school staff and community members to confront racism and bullying head on; now, therefore,

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. November 14 of each year is designated as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day.**

**SECTION 2.** This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.

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**Passed by Senate February 25, 2025**

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Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

**Passed by House June 11, 2025**

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

**Received by Governor:**

.....M.,....., 2025

**Approved:**

.....M.,....., 2025

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Tina Kotek, Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M.,....., 2025

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State