

I am a retired West Albany High School school science teacher (1974-04). I grew up in Portland OR and attended Oregon State University. In the last year I have learned more about racism in America and in Oregon than in all my years in school. I went to K-8 school in NE Portland and had black classmates. I don't recall studying any black history there nor at all-white Wilson High School in SW Portland. Martin Luther King and RFK were assassinated during my senior year of high school. It left an impression on me. On a side note, I am gay and never learned anything about LGBT history or acceptance in any of my formal education.

Oregon has a racist past. We could and should set an example and adopt this senate bill. I support any education that will teach awareness, correct history and bring about methodologies for acceptance. Acceptance fosters positive change. There is no better way to teach critical and holistic thinking than to tell the truth, mourn the past and heal ourselves, our state, our nation. Thank you.