

To Oregon State Representatives;

I am writing to oppose the passage of SB 215.

I taught for decades in Portland public schools, 3-12 as well as community college classes, and have seen the insidious and overt damage done by racial stereotyping.

Language and visual symbols are exceedingly powerful influences on one's beliefs and therefore behaviors. Marketing, advertising, and public relations experts are very aware of this, and use emotionally charged words to sell their ideas and products. Classes in critical thinking encourage students to be aware of and avoid being influenced by such tools. Yet the blatant use of obvious stereotypes of native American peoples continues in many of our public schools through the naming and symbols of athletic teams and mascots. While the intention may be to maintain tradition; the effect is to deliver a derogatory, untrue, and stereotypical message that perpetuates negative and trivializing views of large groups of people.

Please oppose SB 215 and continue to work for fair treatment of all individuals in our state.

Thank you very much.

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