

Dear Chair Senator Dembrow, Vice Chair Senator Thomsen and Committee Members,

As leaders of the Education Study Group of the Democratic Party of Multnomah County, we write in support of SB 683. We have been collaborating with the Historical and Ongoing Anti-Blackness in Oregon Study Group of Multnomah County Democrats in support of this measure. This legislation is both important and timely given the more than 100 days of Black Lives Matter protests last summer in Multnomah County, our state and the nation. This is an opportunity to demonstrate to the community that the Multnomah Democrats and the state believe that Black lives matter.

This legislation is supported by the Education Article III, Plank 16 of the Multnomah Democrats' Platform. Plank 13 states that: "We support policies and procedures requiring school districts in Oregon to support the ability to recognize and productively interrupt statements or actions of their colleagues or students that are discriminatory against marginalized people."

Further, SB 683 is supported by our legislative action Item (LAI 16) in the Education Article III of our Platform. LAI 16: "We call for legislation to require public education instruction specific to racial exclusion and oppression in Oregon." SB 683 is legislation that adheres to the values expressed in our platform and makes clear the intention of our party to support racial justice and increase awareness of the societal impact that systemic racism has on our community. Through increasing the awareness of our youth and society regarding these issues, we have a better chance of achieving true and lasting change. It is both important and timely to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,
Margaret Brown & Mary Thamann, Co-chairs
Education Study Group
Democratic Party of Multnomah County