

Hello my name is Mackenzie Ann Mulkey, I work for Southern Oregon Child and Family Council or as most know it Southern Oregon Head Start. I have worked for the agency for almost two years now, however for a majority of my employment I have held a position in education. To simply state, I have always been a teacher. I hold a Master's Degree from Southern Oregon University in Special Education, an undergraduate degree from Portland State University in Liberal Arts, and a High School Diploma from Portland's own Lincoln High School. With this education back ground and learning, I was shocked to hear about events in Black American History that I had never heard of before. It wasn't until The Black Lives Matter Movement, that peers and colleagues began to tell me of these historic events. How is it even possible to complete the schooling and background I have and not know of these events? I was hearing for the first time that certain towns in Oregon did not allow Black residents. I was hearing about events that took place right in my own state. Horrifying events and it was shocking! I had thought that most of this had happened in the southern states of America. Not here. My education failed me.

Without knowing the history of racism against Black individuals we cannot intelligently evaluate restorative ideas and proposals. Omission of anyone's history is a lie. I did not know. We must stand together to protect America's history. Yes, even the not so great parts and yes even the horrifying parts. How can we expect to grow without knowing where we came How can you say you were taught history in school, if huge parts of the history lessons are omitted?

I know that as an educator there is a huge push for Anti-Bias teaching and learning. I have attended many trainings on this subject. However, these trainings and ideas are simply teaching teachers to test their biases, and hold an open space for any race and or culture in their classroom. But is this enough? Is it enough when history is still being deleted?

As an educator I fully support ARCA SB 683!