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### **Statement in Support of SB 683, the Anti-Racism Curriculum Act**

Community Alliance of Lane County strongly endorses SB 683, the Anti-Racism Curriculum Act.

Last month someone took a wide black marker to the civil rights mural outside our Eugene offices. This attack was part of a string of hate crimes including graffiti incidents in our community in recent weeks. Our mural highlights 50 years of social resistance and features leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. Painted by a group of diverse students, two of whom are now on our staff, it has a special place in the hearts of many and represents the hope of a more just future. Now, the criminal put large X marks through the images of Rosa Park's face, and Malcolm X's face, an image of a Vietnamese women, and other parts of the mural.

We wonder if the perpetrator of this ignorant and hateful act even knew who these images represent. In response, we at the Community Alliance of Lane County gathered support from local allies and nearby neighborhood associations and community leaders and spoke out against the continuum of hate and racism that such graffiti symbolizes. We tried to educate our community about racism, something our schools have not always done.

SB 683 is a necessary part of every child – every citizen's – education in Oregon. ARCA is essential. Every white Oregonian, every person, is awash in the white supremacy that permeates our society and leads to hate crimes. Oregon will not overcome our long history of racial exclusion and structural racism without the Anti-Racism Curriculum Act.

We have to know our past to understand our present so we can change our future. An educational system that does not teach anti-racism is an educational system perpetuating white supremacy.

Pass SB 683.