

Hello, I am a 71 years old white male. I experienced the usual kind of education that was standard in the 50's and 60's. I graduated high school in 1967 and attained a BA in 1972. 4 years ago, I began my journey into studying the truth of racism in the US. My very belated education was blinded by "acceptable" and unquestioned stereo types.

A few examples of what I did not know are: Red Lining, Jim Crow, Poll taxes, and literacy tests. I had learned about all of those very few important facts such as Brown v Board of Education (1954 ), the Emancipation Proclamation, the 14th Amendment, and school integration struggles like in Little Rock. I lived during and observed the Freedom Marches. The 1965 Civil Rights Act. I truly, albeit foolishly, believed that my nation had finally fixed everything.

I am now retired from my successful, high paying career. I was able to ignore the truth because my education had launched me on a path of massive ignorance. I succeeded solely because of my innate skills and the professional skills trainings my employer provided.

We need informed adults in our society, unlike I was for 50 years. After all, I was "well educated". I knew not any of the larger truths of American Society and the ongoing repression of a great segment of my fellow citizens. The hardships, hidden yet deliberate obstacles, food and economic uncertainty, these are all real challenges that constrain life opportunities for peoples of minority subcultures, often referred to as BIPOC. I believe that as the national demographic diversity continues its shift towards a majority minority, the intense resistance of those from the former dominant white culture will intensify.

The 20's and 30's decades will be times of great disruption. We can strengthen our emerging young adults in Oregon by equipping them with a clear, complete, accurate, and honest education about our, not yet, civil society. The coming changes will disadvantage all of our 'young adults in training', if we leave them ignorant and so perpetuate the dissemination of history, told in fairy tale format.

Please take deliberate action now. We have already failed millions of adults here in Oregon. Educated, well informed, creative thinkers are problem solvers, not problem enablers. SB 683 offers us real and profound chance to make a significant improvement for our common future.