I am speaking in support of requiring all schools in Oregon to teach students about our state's and country's racist history. Many students today continue to believe that racism was only a thing in the South, and was limited to slavery and civil rights. It's important that all of us have a broader and deeper understanding of racism and white supremacy at a systemic level. Knowledge is power, and the only way we can "move on" and become a better people and place is if we first acknowledge the truth, no matter how painful it is. Whether it's the Tulsa race "riots" or Oregon's exclusion law or Portland's gentrification of N/NE Portland, it's important that our children understand that white supremacy runs deep and continues to oppress BIPOC to this day, that it's not just something that happened a long time ago. The curriculum that is utilized for this should center the experiences and voices of BIPOC. No doubt a bill such as this will bring out the fear and white fragility of some, but I'm hopeful that the legislature will do what is right and take this step toward dismantling systemic racism. Thank you!