

Dear Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber,

RE: SB 1050

My name is Jim Nagae, one of your registered constituents, and I want to let you know that I support SB 1050 that will provide the necessary funding for the resources to provide instruction, training and materials for Oregon's Ethnic Studies Standards. With these resources, teachers will be able to provide the education involving Oregon historical experiences to our children. The children can then use this educational background as a basis for their future.

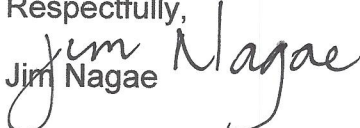
As a third generation Japanese American (sansei term for children born to ethnic Japanese in the United States), my parents rarely mentioned their experiences during WWII, even though both my father's and mother's families were forced to move to the Portland Assembly Center used for temporary housing. Then they were transported in August 1942 to the Minidoka Relocation Center, Tule Lake Relocation Center or the Heart Mountain Relocation Centers. Nearly 3,700 people of Japanese ancestry from the Portland area and much of Oregon, were both citizens and legal residents.

Approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans from Oregon, California and Washington interned as directed by Executive Order 9066 until the camps closed in October 1945.

The interment with all of its conditions, restrictions and emotional impacts created a generation who became silent when this subject was mentioned even though many gave their lives helping the United States win WWII. (442nd Infantry Regiment, the most decorated unit in US military history, composed almost entirely of second-generation American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, 4,000 men) One of my uncles volunteered and became part of the 44nd Infantry Regiment. He was killed in Europe. My family never mentioned about Uncle Shin Sato. I only heard of this uncle in 2018 when a newly constructed Beaverton Elementary School was named after Uncle Shin.

Please vote 'yes' on SB 1050 so the experiences my mother, father, uncles, aunts and other family members will not be forgotten and their experiences remembered by future generations.

Respectfully,


Jim Nagae

3.29.2023