

Senate Bill 450

Sponsored by Senators PATTERSON, MANNING JR, Representatives ANDERSEN, BOWMAN, NELSON; Senators JAMA, SOLLMAN, Representatives EVANS, GRAYBER, LIVELY, MANNIX, MCINTIRE, NATHANSON, NGUYEN D, NGUYEN H, PHAM H (Pressession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Makes November 14 of each year Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. (Flesch Readability Score: 74.8).

Designates November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas Ruby Nell Bridges was born to Abon and Lucille Bridges on September 8, 1954, in
4 Tylertown, Mississippi; and

5 Whereas Ruby was born in the immediate wake of Brown v. Board of Education, which ruled
6 on May 17, 1954, that racial segregation in school was unconstitutional; and

7 Whereas the southern states were vehemently opposed to integration, and when Ruby's family
8 relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1959, she attended a segregated kindergarten; and

9 Whereas in 1960, Ruby was one of six Black children in Louisiana to pass a test to determine
10 whether they could attend the previously all-white William Frantz Elementary School, and ulti-
11 mately she was the only Black child who chose to attend the school that year; and

12 Whereas Ruby made history on November 14, 1960, when she walked to William Frantz Ele-
13 mentary School flanked by four deputy U.S. marshals, the first Black child in the south to attend a
14 previously all-white school; and

15 Whereas Ruby's brave walk that day was immortalized by Norman Rockwell in his iconic 1964
16 painting, The Problem We All Live With; and

17 Whereas though Ruby's life as a student continued to be fraught with blatant racism and threats
18 of violence, she never missed a single day of school; and

19 Whereas Ruby Bridges has been a tireless advocate for change throughout her life, and through
20 the Ruby Bridges Foundation, speaking engagements and her series of children's books, she contin-
21 ues to strive for an end to racism; and

22 Whereas the United States education system has progressed immensely from that November day
23 65 years ago, but racism still plagues the school experience for students in Oregon and throughout
24 the United States; and

25 Whereas Salem-Keizer Safe Routes to School honors the impact Ruby Bridges has had on the
26 United States education system through its participation in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, a
27 nationwide day of dialogue for students, families, school staff and community members to confront
28 racism and bullying head on; now, therefore,

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

2 **SECTION 1. November 14 of each year is designated as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day.**

3 **SECTION 2. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
4 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
5 **on its passage.**

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