

We have always been told how important history is; that we must know it, understand it, and learn from it. This has been reiterated in all schools, regardless of location, student population, or reputation. But the bill being proposed today would have children not learn history. The representatives supporting this bill are advocating for students to be taught an incomplete history of the United States. The narrative being pushed by these politicians is that teaching a complete history would be divisive; that it would be overly critical historical figures and events, when in fact, it is merely a more complete picture. These politicians would claim this is a radical agenda pushed by extremist groups, when actually, it is a revisionist agenda of erasure that has us in the undereducated state we're in. When I was in high school, though I took an AP level class for US History, I was not taught about the impact of non-white leaders on the progress of our country. The exception to this, of course, was during February, when a meager representation of Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and George Washington Carver would be handed out to us. Even in college, though some sort of history class was required, mention of non-white people (and even more rare, non-men) were few and far between. Only outside of academia did I ever learn about important historical aspects like the history of Juneteenth or the contributions of Mary McLeod Bethune. We deserve more than this. Our children deserve more than this. This should not be a divisive issue; it is right that we should be advocating for our children to be taught a complete history and to actually be able to learn and grow from our past. Without this, we will stagnate and regress, as a society. Without understanding our history, we are doomed to repeat it. But with a full historical education, we will be able to grow, learn, and prosper. United in education, we can ensure that each generation is an asset to society by establishing a proper historical base of knowledge. We should support a full education for every child, and we should ensure that teachers are able to teach a complete history of the United States.