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# Opinion

## Skipper Osborne's Testimony on HB 4005

**In testimony to legislature, Osborne says bill could decrease access to important therapies**



Skipper Osborne

Guest Columnist

**F**ormer NAACP Portland Branch President Skipper Osborne shared his testimony in opposition to House Bill 4005, currently before the Oregon legislature, with *The Skanner News*. The text of the testimony is reproduced below.

Greetings,

My name is Skipper Osborne. I graduated from Vernon Elementary 1964, and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1967. I received a bachelor of science/business administration

from Lewis & Clark College Undergraduate School in 1990. I worked for the intelligence division for the United States Air Force. I am a very proud 100 percent Disabled American Veteran. I went three years towards a master of divinity at George Fox University. I went two years of pre-law at the College of Legal Arts. I am a licensed minister. I am a former President of the Portland Branch #1120 of the NAACP. I am currently founder/CEO of Truth and Justice for All, a civil rights organization. I have been fighting for civil rights "for all," for the past 50 years.

My comments are about opposition to HB 4005, which pro-

poses to mandate biopharmaceutical companies to disclose propriety information.

HB 4005 could hurt innovation and ways for companies to develop medications that could help people in the African American community. For example, there are higher rates of breast cancer and prostate cancer in the African Ameri-

are not the dominant drivers for healthcare-spending growth. Healthcare spending growth is due to other factors and healthcare services such as long-term care, hospitalization and provider services.

HB 4005 could potentially decrease access to important therapies.

We feel these new measures would neither benefit patients nor decrease healthcare costs. We strongly oppose HB 4005 and are ready to work with the legislature to develop real solutions. Such as: go after "rogue pricing" as was done with the Epi-Pen, which I am user thereof.

I will be actively working with members of my community to oppose HB 4005. I hope that you take my comments seriously, and understand the damage this bill will do in the discovery and making of pharmaceuticals.

Most respectfully submitted,  
Skipper Osborne

**“We feel these new measures would neither benefit patients nor decrease healthcare costs**

can population. Also we need to find cures or better medications for diseases such as sickle cell anemia.

The measures of HB 4005 disregard the fact that medicines

## How My Grandparents Taught Me to Love Myself

I don't remember my grandparents assisting me with homework beyond holding up flash cards for me to recite. They could have, I just don't remember. I do remember Lil' Bow Wow's release of "Beware of Dog" in 2000 followed by my incessant pleading to hang his poster on my bedroom wall. I also remember hearing my mother's inevitable "no" as she repeated her "no posters on these walls" policy.

In a fast-paced, tech-obsessed world, assisting your child with homework can prove a daunting task. New teaching methods are adopted every day. Even professionals with advanced degrees are not necessarily equipped to help children with homework.

However, all parents should feel empowered to teach their children social and emotional development. Social and emotional competence yields similar academic gains as strictly educational interventions. Parents, churches, and communities bear the brunt of the responsibility for socializing children. This is where we, as a community, have an opportunity to shine.

A report from the Brookings Institution, published in May 2015, called for the prioritization of social and emotional development as the U.S. Congress worked on the bill that would become the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), that was signed into law by Barack Obama in December 2015.

The report, titled "Social and Emotional Development: The Next School Reform Frontier," claims social and emotional competence di-



Lynette Monroe

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rectly correlates to a child's ability to learn and achieve in school. The report cited the findings of a study of more than 200,000 students from kindergarten to high school who participated in social and emotional development learning (SEL) programs at school. The study found that students who completed SEL programs demonstrated greater social skills, less emotional stress, better attitudes, fewer conduct problems, and more frequent positive be-

**“Parents, churches, and communities bear the brunt of the responsibility for socializing children**

haviors, such as cooperation and help for other students—benefits that translate to the workplace.

In November 2017, after all 50 states and the District of Columbia submitted their state ESSA plans, Lauren Poteat reported that states were ignoring opportunities to address social competency in the new national education law. Social and emotional development is a child's ability to understand and control his/her feelings, acknowledge and respect the feelings of others, and to form meaningful relationships. In layman's terms, social/emotional development is the authoritative, waving finger of your mother, father, grand-

ma, grandpa, aunt or uncle saying: "Remember who you representin', when you walk out this door." Or, for those of us familiar with Christianity, social and emotional development echoes Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

So, what can Black parents do to supplement the lack of school-based SEL programs? Here are a few things my grandparents did.

### Respect Your Child's Voice

If there was a rule I didn't agree with, my grandma always took the time to hear my perspective. She didn't listen just waiting to reply; she listened intently, to understand. Most times I didn't change her mind, but a few times I did. Those experiences taught me

that my voice was valid, that you didn't have to agree with someone to understand their perspective, and that simply acknowledging someone else's perspective can create an environment for enlightenment.

### Give Your Child Tangible Heroes

There was a 'no posters on these walls' policy in my house. I am almost certain my grandma didn't want posters of celebrities on her wall for respectability devotions. However, the unintended outcome was an elevated perception of self-worth. Since, my grandma never provided me the opportunity to idolize my favorite pop stars, I learned to

look to the people around me for role models and guidance. Ultimately, I learned that whatever tools I needed to succeed were already within me. I learned how to control my behavior. I held the sole responsibility for my choices and whenever I felt confused, the first people I looked to for help were in my immediate support system.

### Encourage Your Children

I never received a reward for expected behavior. I didn't get taken out for pizza or ice cream for good grades or behavior. Nevertheless, my grandpa never missed an opportunity to show his appreciation for a job well done, either through a big bear hug or a cheesy smile. My grandpa showed his love for me regardless of any accolades I obtained. He made it clear that he loved me; just for me. He told me I was beautiful before anyone else ever got the chance to.

On bad days, I still hear his voice saying, "That's a pretty dress there. Twirl around, let me see it all the way around." In that moment I would feel as if I was the only girl in the world. I felt we had similar interest in pretty dresses and that made him more than just my father figure; that made him my confidant. I credit this experience for my ability to form meaningful relationships.

Neither of my grandparents graduated high school, however they were able to have a profound impact on my academic progress by simply validating my voice, providing a strong support system, and encouraging me regardless of accolades from the outside