

Sarah Segal Senate Bill 280 Testimony

March 1

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, 2017

Good afternoon Committee on Education. My name is Sarah Segal, and I am writing this letter of testimony on behalf of the Oregon Council for the Social Studies in support of Senate Bill 280. I was the 2016 Oregon Council for the Social Studies President, and have been a member of the Board since 2012. The Oregon Council for the Social Studies, or OCSS, is a statewide organization of social studies educators who collaborate and support best-practices history teaching and learning.

What is best for kids? Senate Bill 280 is best for kids. Now - perhaps more than ever - purposeful, accurate, and comprehensive social studies teaching and learning is imperative. However, in order to provide students

with meaningful learning, educators must have access to thoughtfully designed curriculum resources and professional development opportunities for teaching inclusive Oregon history. Designating funds for developing inclusive Oregon history curriculum and professional development is essential for our student's success in the classroom, community, and as global citizens.

Beyond my OCSS membership, I am additionally personally and professionally vested in the potentially incredible outcomes that will come with funding SB 280. As a teacher at Hood River Middle School, my students learned about our communities horrific actions against Japanese Americans during WWII, and took informed action to honor Minoru Yasui. Hood River Middle School students created a video-letter asking President Obama to honor Minoru Yasui with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, and then testified twice during the 2016 Oregon Legislative session in support of permanent declaration of March 28th Minoru Yasui Day. Comprehensive learning is essential to growing knowledgeable and engaged kids who become adult citizens.

Funding SB 280 will result in the creation of inclusive, high-quality curriculums and professional development opportunities for best-practices Oregon history teaching and learning for all grades, and in every classroom.

Thank you.