

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Education

re: Civics Education

I am a former Public School teacher, I know that teachers can be a positive influence on their students, broadening their point-of-view with experiences in effective education and showing possibilities for their future that may not be available at home or social group.

The need for Civics Education in Oregon Public Schools has become imperative to the preservation of democracy. Recently, we have witnessed the actions of many persons who have been convinced of whack-a-doodle theories and untruths. The attack on the Capitol in Washington DC (and state capitols) is proof that some do not value democracy. Voter suppression and violence against minority people is another case where misunderstanding civil rights is a symptom of lack of education in this area. Ideally Public Education prepares students to prosper in the family and job market, live a fulfilling life legally, and participate in public life in their community, state and nation by voting, running for office if they choose to do so and contributing to the general good of society.

Education creates understanding!

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