

Kathy Conway Ph.D.
7113 Griffin Lane
Jacksonville, OR 97530
kathleendconway@gmail.com 541-324-4501

March 7, 2021

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I would like to testify in support of Sente Bill 683.

As a nation, we need to learn from our past so we can go forward in a positive and productive manner. As a child growing up in Oregon, I never understood Oregon's actions against people of color because it was not taught in the public schools I attended. If we had confronted our past so students in our schools could have understood what was done, it may have resulted in a different world today.

As an adult I became an educator, teaching college students who would become elementary teachers. In this profession, I became aware of the immense amount of material we ask our teachers to cover. Choices must be made and often times important information is overlooked. This is an opportunity to make sure this part of history is not ignored

Requiring school districts to provide instruction on racist history in Oregon as well as the United States is a beginning to moving forward to right the wrongs that have been a part of our history. Oregon can be a state and part of a country that really supports our founding fathers' statement that all of us have "certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

We have a chance to right the historical wrongs by helping our citizens understand our past. This can be accomplished by passing SB 683.