

Dear Committee members,

I strongly support the passage of SB 683.

We have an obligation to the students in Oregon to teach the accurate history of our country and state, and to teach students to be critical thinkers. A comprehensive historical approach to teaching children about racism is necessary if they are ever to get beyond "celebrating the end of slavery" and moving towards honing truly anti-racist skills such as: the ability to recognize racist policies, ideas, and acts, and then to formulate corresponding anti-racist policies, ideas, and acts.

If we continue to perpetuate the narrative that our children will lead the way to progress, then we need to invest in doing the difficult work of actually providing them with a realistic view of the world they inhabit so that they can then do the difficult work of making it better.

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