

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support the passage of SB 683. If Germany was of the opinion that telling the truth about the holocaust would be destructive and divisive, it wouldn't have education about their role in WWII as part of the curriculum in their schools. They have made the choice to tell the truth. Germany believes that if we don't learn from our history we are likely to repeat it.

If the curriculum in K-12 is already as it should be, I shudder to think that we would find it appropriate for a teacher in the Portland Public School District to be using a textbook that says "To run a plantation well, you need to be intelligent and industrious. A plantation owner is like a business executive. He is responsible for the work and the workers." (As reported in the March 3, 2021, issue of Willamette Week.)

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. Doing this will help us to achieve a more perfect union.

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