

Letter of Support for SB 513

To: The Senate Committee on Education

As a citizen of Oregon I am appalled that our state is one of only eleven states that do not require a Civics class for graduation. Given the facts that only 25% of all Americans can name all three branches of government and that only about 30% of Americans born in the 1980's think it is essential to live in a democracy, how can we close our eyes to the danger of losing our democracy? We may not be able to educate the thousands of adults out there who do not understand the importance of a democracy, but we can educate our students in this state. Please pass SB 513. **The best way to preserve democracy is to teach democracy.**

Thank you,

Karlene McDowell
Albany, OR