

Dear Committee Members,

No honest student of history can find difficulty or controversy in SB0683's language. Every word of it is based in the true history of our country and our state.

Any proper course of education would address the racist history and racist policies that plague our community (national, state, and local). Without acknowledging this history, we cannot pretend to address the inequalities forced upon so many of fellow citizens.

Sadly, far too many of our young people go through school successfully without ever engaging in the critical thinking of why our system is so full of both historical and contemporary inequity in education, in housing, in poverty, in prisons, etc. We must grapple with the sins of our forefathers as well as our own (both intentional and unintentional, known and unknown).

Nothing in this bill asks educators like myself to stand before a class and apologize (even if it would be appropriate). Nothing in this bill asks educators to lie to students. Nothing in this bill asks educators to demand students feel at fault or apologize themselves. Rather, it asks us to help our students understand why we are who we are. It asks students to think critically about where we as a country, as a state, and as a community have been, where we are now, and where we want to go.

Please pass this necessary legislation to ensure that ALL students are given the opportunity they deserve to learn about our true history.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Fuller  
High School Social Studies Teacher