



March 8, 2021

RE: SB 683 Requiring school districts to provide instruction on racist history of this country and state

Dear Senate Committee on Education:

As a mom of three school-age children, I am writing to testify to my strong opposition to SB 683 requiring school districts to provide instruction on racist history of this country and state for the following reasons:

1. Bill is not needed – Current social science state standards already include multiple learning targets for topics of slavery, racism, black history, civil rights and activism.
2. Bill is partisan activism – Bill appears to copy from widely debunked 1619 Project-type rhetoric rather than informed scholarship.
3. Bill is an undue burden on school districts and teachers – Curriculum decisions should be made locally and should not be mandated by legislators. Parents want teachers and historians in charge of social science education.
4. Bill is an example of misplaced priorities – There are currently 129 measures in front of the Senate Committee on Education. 129. Most are ill-conceived and, if enacted, would be counter-productive to solving the true problems underlying Oregon’s education crisis as follows:
 - Oregon’s education quality is currently ranked [45th](#) in the nation. 45th. Despite being ranked [26th](#) in the nation for per-pupil spending.
 - Our kids are currently being denied in-person instruction. While 40% of America’s K-12 students have resumed in-person instruction, Oregon kids are still home, falling further and further behind.

I am sure all 129 measures before this committee are well-intentioned. But results matter more than intentions. I ask that this committee stay focused on advancing only legislation that prioritizes student achievement and in-person instruction. Please do not release SB 683.

Sincerely,

Mary Miller