

I am sixth generation from Southern Oregon. The history I was taught, my 27-year-old daughter was taught, and my 15-year-old son were taught has been “whitewashed” (the victors get to write the history). My husband attended a private school and the history he was taught was much less “whitewashed”. Knowing a full accounting of history enabled him to be much more successful when he went on to college and careers. Although very successful at Willamette University, it was shocking for me to find out I had only been taught one view of history. It made my secondary education, as well as my daughter’s, much more difficult. My son may not be affected by the passage of SB 683 but I hope my granddaughter will be. Why are we sending our students out in the world with only half truths, with half history?

We can take a lesson from countries like Germany that do not ignore the atrocities of their past but to teach them in ways that will help keep history from repeating itself. Educating our youth about the truth of Oregon’s and the nation’s history will only strengthen us. SB 683 reflects the best of the groundbreaking leadership Oregon is capable of, by fearlessly confronting our past as a means to build a better future for all Oregonians.