

Dear Chair and Committee members,

I strongly support the passage of SB 683. If Germany had 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 know our history we are more 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 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 workers." (As reported in the March 3, 2021 issue of Willamette Week.)

We have an obligation to the students of Oregon to teach the accurate history of our country and state and to teach critical thinking skills. This legislation will help us achieve a more perfect union.