

March 8, 2021

Dear Senate Education Committee,

Since you are taking testimony in regard to SB 683, I wanted to let you know my opposition to this bill. The proposal to teach racist history in our public schools is a further step in dividing people and pitting them against one another. There is already curriculum in place that teaches about the horrible practice of slavery and the unjust Jim Crow laws that came after the abolition of slavery.

The curriculum this bill proposes seeks to teach young people they are only valued by their skin color. Instead of teaching them they have opportunity to pursue their highest dreams and goals, it teaches them to either wallow in their victim-hood or despise themselves for being an "oppressor".

There are some things in our country's history, as mentioned above, that have been a terrible blight on the character of our nation. However, in the larger picture, America has grown by leaps and bounds in regard to inclusion and acceptance of myriad people groups of all skin colors. This proposed curriculum would take us backward, into attitudes of prejudice and discrimination based on skin color.

This bill needs to die in committee. To pass it would bring a further deterioration of any strides being made toward unity in our country.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Rouse