

Dear Senator Wagner and distinguished members of the Senate Education Committee and sponsors, and the Oregon Senate:

I support Holocaust and Genocide education in all Oregon Schools and support SB 664 that would require school districts in Oregon to provide Holocaust and Genocide instruction.

As last Past-President of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center, current co-chairman of two Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education committees, and a retired educator, I truly believe that Holocaust and Genocide Education is the best way to teach students about the ramifications of unbridled hatred. This knowledge can assist them in making choices as they evaluate factual and questionable information about genocides and other acts of aggression. The current school age generation is the last generation that will ever get to hear testimony about the Holocaust from survivors. Students can learn to look for the good in others, act responsibly when confronted by Anti-Semitism or other hate crimes and to take action when others are experiencing discrimination.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), states clearly and concisely the reason why Holocaust and Genocide education it is so important:

"As students gain insight into the many historical, social, religious, political, and economic factors that cumulatively resulted in the Holocaust, they gain awareness of the complexity of the subject and a perspective on how a convergence of factors can contribute to the disintegration of democratic values. Students come to understand that it is the responsibility of citizens in any society to learn to identify danger signals and to know when to react." [LINK](#)

SB 664 must pass.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jill Ann Slansky, Ed.D.