

Good afternoon, my name is Oliver Twain. I'm an 18 year old senior at Sunset High School in Beaverton. Last year, I spent a semester abroad and part of my experience included a trip to Poland. I will never be able to forget what I saw there. While I was in Poland, I saw gas chambers, ruins of Synagogues, incredibly large cemeteries with bullet holes in the head stones, ghettos, and a forest where hundreds of children were murdered. I remember walking out of the gates of Auschwitz and thinking how lucky I was to be able to do that. I told myself that I had to do everything I could to make sure that the Holocaust would never be forgotten and would never happen again.

In my time at high school, I only learned about the Holocaust once and it wasn't even in my history class. Most people aren't able to take a trip to Poland and have the up close, personal experience that I had, so we must do a better job of teaching about the Holocaust. Students need this knowledge and background in order to fight discrimination.

I have been told over and over that the children hold the key to our future. If this is true, our educators must equip us with the understanding and awareness of what has come before us, both good and bad, so that we can have the wisdom to plan for the future. I have a personal responsibility, knowing what I now know, to protect the human rights of all people. I am asking you to have Holocaust education accessible to all of the students in Oregon. It's important. Please pass Senate Bill 664.

Thank you for your time.