

As a tenured professor of Judaic Studies at Portland State University who regularly teaches on the Holocaust and Jewish history, as an active and engaged member of our state's Jewish community, and as the parent of three Portland public school students, I am writing to express my opposition to the ill-conceived SB 664 proposal. What the students and the citizens of our state need is not the intellectually sloppy if well-meant conflation of the Holocaust with other social ills, but specific, historically grounded education, free of clumsy political fashion. This bill, if realized, will have the effect of *undermining* serious Holocaust and genocide education. It will *harm* the ability of our students to make responsible and thoughtful ethical determinations about history, our state, and our world. It will, in short, do the *opposite* of what its no doubt well-intentioned proponents hope to accomplish.

As a scholar of Jewish history and culture, and the descendant of victims of the Shoah, I urge you to scrap this misguided legislation and engage with those scholars and historians who can foster a more ethically responsible and historically reputable approach to Holocaust education. I have seen first-hand how the Holocaust is misused and misrepresented in PPS classrooms. It is no improvement on not teaching the Holocaust to teach it in superficial, distorted, and exploitative fashion, which is what this bill will promote. A subject this important deserves further reflection and greater care.

Sincerely,

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