

Dear Oregon Senate Education Committee,

My name is Chanelle Buck, and I am a 14-year-old student at Lakeridge High School. I firmly support the teachings of the Holocaust and genocide for students in Oregon. I am sure many other students who had heard genocide survivors feel the same way that I did when I heard the survival story of Alter Wiener two years ago. I had limited knowledge of many of the horrors and crimes that occurred during genocides including the Holocaust. I have always been interested in the Holocaust, World War II, and other acts of genocide. I looked forward to studying these topics in school. However, the disappointment comes due to the fact I had been stranded from learning more about these tragedies, which make up such a drastic part of our history. It is impertinent that we, the students, understand the pain and struggles that people who were outcasted by society went through, to escape the persecution that faced them as the ideals that they had carried, for generations were seen as invalid and because of these opposing views they were seen as beneath others.

33% of millennials still don't believe these atrocities happened. The Holocaust is not an event to forget; we must work together to learn from these horrible events and preserve the memories of those who perished. It has always started with the youth to make a change in the world; Claire is proof of that in front of you all today. We must educate on the Holocaust and genocides like such, so these atrocities are never forgotten nor repeated. To teach youth about the horrific events that occurred can make a domino effect in changing the world to be that much better of a place for our generation and future generations to come. As a student, I want my fellow peers to have the opportunity to start learning about these events beginning with the education of the Holocaust and many other genocides.

Thank you for your time.