

Dear Members of Oregon House Committee on Education,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 664A that requires school districts in Oregon to provide instruction about Holocaust and genocide in Oregon schools. It is a very important topic that should be part of the school curriculum and I support the bill's requirement that Oregon State Board of Education develops academic content standards for Holocaust and genocide studies. I request that the standards also include the study of Holodomor, the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933.

The Ukrainian American community of Oregon is grateful to the Oregon legislature for unanimously passing in the 2017 legislative session SCR003 that designated November 25, 2017 as Holodomor Remembrance Day in Oregon. The resolution encouraged individuals, educators, businesses, groups, organizations and public institutions to observe Holodomor Remembrance Day with appropriate activities designed to honor the victims and educate Oregonians about this tragedy.

The Ukrainian American community of Oregon is also grateful to the US Senate of the 155th Congress for passing, by unanimous consent, Senate Resolution 435. The resolution recognized the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine (Holodomor) of 1932-1933 and recognized the 1988 findings of the Commission on the Ukraine Famine that Joseph Stalin committed genocide against the Ukrainians in 1932-1933. The resolution also encouraged dissemination of information regarding the famine.

Thank you for considering resolution 664A. I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of it. I also request that the State Board of Education adds the Holodomor, Ukraine's famine-genocide, to the genocide curriculum standards in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Sofiya Ostap