To: Oregon Legislative Education Committee

Re: SB 683

"When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

-Martin Luther King, Jr. in "I Have A Dream"

SB 683 would perpetuate the lie that America was founded upon racism and oppression. Why would anyone want to lie to our school children? Why are adults perpetuating these false ideas?

In promoting such false ideologies, you stab through the heart all those brave men and women who fought and died to preserve the rich heritage of freedom and liberty established by the Founding Fathers.

I will not spend time here providing all the evidence of our country being founded upon principles of liberty and justice, because you already know that to be true.

Clearly, motives to support these lies about our history are rooted in some belief that government should play a much larger role in directing our lives; that these ideas are going to lead to a citizenry that begs someone to 'save America' by transforming it.

America doesn't need or want the transformation you have in mind, namely, central government control of every aspect of citizens' lives.

That's what Americans originally came here to escape – remember?

And people today still want to come to America – because America stands for freedom. She always has. America isn't perfect, but she has always been and remains today a beacon of freedom to the world.

Why would anyone want to undermine that with lies? Why would anyone pull the rug of freedom out from under their very own feet? This foolishness must be put aside and never revisited. Citizens of all ages ought to be taught the truth.