

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 683**

**SUBMITTED 02/16/2021**

Members of the Senate Education Committee:

We implore you to reject SB 683 and insure that it does not pass out of Committee, as it is an unnecessary and potentially harmful piece of legislation. What on earth does SB 683 accomplish other than to further the indoctrination of impressionable school children and promote further division within this country? Our country is already race-obsessed to an insane degree, and this bill will only make it worse. Is this the Legislature's attempt at promoting "unity?" Do the bill's sponsors really think that this is a good use of time in our schools? Oregon public schools are a nationwide laughingstock, consistently ranking among the 10<sup>th</sup> worst in the country. They are a literal "black hole" for billions of taxpayer dollars. Our state government should be working to improve educational fundamentals, not adding this kind of virtue signaling garbage to an already substandard curriculum. Everyone understands that our country's history is far from perfect; however, rather than focusing on the negative, shouldn't we be teaching children how we overcame our "racist past?" How about providing some context so that children aren't obliged to frame past history using modern sensibilities? Those supporting this bill seem to be on the team that's endlessly promoting the canard of "systemic racism" - the new Democrat boogeyman hiding behind every tree.

Thank you for your consideration.

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