

March 8, 2021

Dear Oregon Legislators and Senators:

My wife and I are writing to strongly urge your support of SB 683, The Anti-Racism Curriculum Act (ARCA). We believe in our hearts that there exists a generational opportunity right now, today, to advance a more open and honest conversation throughout our schools and thus our families, neighborhoods and communities about racism, what it looks like, sounds like and feels like and how racism has impacted our state and nation throughout history, and what each of us, young and old, can and must do individually and collectively to extinguish racist behaviors and practices today that diminish us individually and as a country. This, of course requires your courage and strength of purpose now, to meet this moment with your commitment and support. If you meet the moment, so too will our students of all ages.

SB 683 provides the platform through which our great state can help achieve our most iconic national value, "that all men are created equal" by necessarily acknowledging and teaching the lesser told yet documented historical truths of racism in Oregon and our country. By providing a more learned and complete discussion and providing the tools to recognize and fight racial inequities today, we believe our students will be empowered and inspired throughout their lives to more honestly and effectively challenge racism, racial injustice and indifference in our communities into the future.

Please help abolish racism by committing your support to SB 683.

Respectfully,

Jay and Becky Pearson
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