

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Education

I am a member of AAUW of Oregon and would like to give testimony on Senate Bill 513.

Civics in Schools (SB 513)

Recent events have made it clear how important education, or lack thereof, is to our democracy. In order for citizens to make informed decisions, they need at least a basic understanding of our government and how it works. Given that, I was surprised and dismayed when I learned that civics education is not required in Oregon schools.

High school students must learn about our democracy and our Constitution in order to become better citizens as they become adults. A better understanding of civics may improve voter engagement and participation in our government as young people learn about their civil rights as well as their civil responsibilities.

Therefore, I support Senate Bill 513 which requires civics instruction in Oregon schools.

Sincerely,

Karen King
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