



March 10, 2021

Chair Senator Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Business for a Better Portland, I write in support of SB 683, the Anti-Racism Curriculum Act. Business for a Better Portland recognizes how generations of unchecked racism has had significant damage on people and communities of color, and this harm must be addressed. Moreover, as members of the business community, we recognize the injustice of how systemic racism has created massive obstacles for many entrepreneurs and business owners of color.

An actively anti-racist educational curriculum, like that proposed in SB 683, is one way of eradicating racist beliefs, racist biases, and ultimately racist systems. Accurately educating our future generations about our state's racist history is a necessary way to teach students how to have more understanding for the lived experiences of people of color and the importance of creating a more equitable and just society. With the dismantling of racist biases and systems will also come greater economic growth and prosperity for people of color, which will in turn benefit all communities and the state as a whole.

Thank you for considering this testimony in strong support of SB 683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Ashley Henry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Henry, Executive Director
Business for a Better Portland (BBPDX)