

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Mazie Drummond, and I'm a high school junior in Portland. I am testifying today in SUPPORT of SB 683.

I know my education has informed parts of myself deeply; that which I have learned has become a part of my identity. I am also a white student, and have grown up with that privilege. I know it is my responsibility to educate myself on injustice in order to combat it effectively. It is not up to me to say how best we should pursue anti racism, and I feel I must acknowledge that.

This country was founded on colonialism, imperialism, and white supremacy. Those values continue to inform our society and all of our institutions, so deeply ingrained are they in our history and our identity as a nation and a state. That said, education has power. We have a responsibility to educate students on the injustice of our systems in order to grow and move forward. In a sense, students must learn in order to un-learn. Education is only a step towards achieving a more equitable system, but I believe it to be a crucial one.

Education has a clear role in injustice historically. We must take steps to teach true history, instead of spreading and perpetuating lies about how this country was founded. In general, I am a firm believer in honesty and that we cannot fight for today without learning about yesterday.

Please support SB 683 for students and for the future of this nation.

Thank you,
Mazie Drummond