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Vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 550

Good morning, Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and esteemed members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. My name is Victoria Bucklin and I live in Appleton. There is certainly something special about the United States of America that makes it the chosen destination of many people seeking freedom and liberty from the tyranny of others. Our Founding Fathers hammered out through debate and compromise a constitution that gave generations of people hope and a path to the life of their dreams. Three of my four grandparents were legal immigrants (one an orphan of the Armenian genocide) and instilled in us their gratitude for the opportunities available to them as U. S. citizens. Legislation like LD 550 protects the important history of the United States from dangerous and destructive ideas like social justice and critical race theory that actually divide our country and make it harder for those most at risk to thrive. We are in trouble when our public school teachers promote the ideas of people like Ibram X. Kendi who claims "The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination". As my mother regularly reminded us children, "Two wrongs don't make a right".

All this emphasis on the characteristics that divide us, reminds me of a book I recently read: *Left to Tell* by Immaculee Ilibagiza. As a young Rwandan girl, Immaculee and her best friend did not realize that they were from different tribes. It wasn't until they went to school and their teachers constantly drew attention to the physical differences between the Hutu and Tutsi that they became aware. Of course we know these divisions led to the atrocious Rwandan civil war that decimated the Tutsi tribe and resulted in over 500,000 civilians deaths.

Please do not let our schools become infected by these biased agendas, vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 550.

Thank you.

Victoria Bucklin