Cathy Nichols South Portland

Dear Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

I am writing to oppose LD 187 that instills "white hate" in our society. Students should have a choice in the type of history they learn but should never be forced to take classes on one particular ethnicity. Also, mandating that students learn the "History of Genocide" is a clear step toward the agenda of Critical Race Theory that is being pushed at our country.

Maine has been exceptionally welcoming to immigrants and non-whites and there is no reason to push "white guilt' on our students. This emphasis of teaching students how bad white people are is a terrible idea. All history should be taught, and regretfully the list of genocides against all people of color is lengthy and multi-colored.

We all were taught about slavery and the genocides suffered in WWII. Some of us also learned how Spaniards (light-brown skin) slaughtered millions of indigenous (brown skin) South Americans. We've learned how Africans sold other Africans as slaves to each other, and then to the Dutch, then to other European slave traders. We've learned how Muslims invaded southern Spain and killed Christians, Christians killed millions in the Holy Land. The list is endless.

I would argue that the genocide against Christians in Syria and white landowners in South Africa has NOT been taught and moreover has been suppressed by the media. I could also argue that we should teach students that the civil war was about the Democrat party of that time wanting to preserve a way of life that was made possible at the expense of slaves.

Now the Democrat party wishes to emphasize that the white man is guilty of an enormous legacy of crimes against humanity. This negativity is demoralizing, depressing, and not helping relationships.

Thank you for considering my testimony and representing ALL the people of Maine.