

The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 3, 2025

## To: <u>Chair Lew Frederick, Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber</u> And members of the <u>Senate Committee on Education</u>

Re: <u>SB 1098</u> – Access to Materials in Schools – Support

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that the individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged.

Based on this position, we promote–as a matter of free speech–that youth of all ages within the public school system should always be permitted to learn, in age-appropriate ways, the values that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and the belonging of all people. It is important for youths' problem-solving skills, to understand the issues we all face together, as a community, a state, a nation, and a world.

We appreciate that this bill prohibits rejecting library materials and textbooks based on their mention of individuals or groups protected from discrimination while specifying a process for reviewing requests to remove materials and requires a public written explanation for removal.

We urge your support for SB 1098.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation

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