

To Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

We are residents of Portland who want no bans on Oregonians learning about each other. We support SB 1098.

We want Oregon's students to be well-educated, and that includes learning about the actions, contributions and accomplishments of people from every community that resides in our state and in our country. That is why we support SB 1098.

Sadly, we now have to make sure we don't allow book bans in our country! We don't believe most Oregonians want that. But we think it is important at this time to ensure that no reading materials in our schools can be prohibited on the basis of including information about individuals or groups toward which discrimination is prohibited. That includes people from every nationality, of every racial identify and religion, of all gender identities, and those who have disabilities. Unfortunately, people who don't understand the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion do not want our young people to find out about all kinds of residents in their communities.

We know that learning about each other and understanding people different from ourselves brings about good relations in and success of our communities. Pass SB 1098 so our children's education will not be limited by book banning!

Sally Joughin
Tony Fischer
Jodi Zeisel
Mary Thamann
Ann St-Cyr
Corinna Andrews