

Jasia Mosley, Next Up Action Fund

Senate Committee on Education

RE: Support for SB 1098



Thursday, February 13th, 2025

Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Weber, and members of the committee.

My name is Jasia Mosley and I'm the Policy Manager at Next Up Action Fund. Our organization has been around since 2002, and our mission is to build political power with diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. We're an organization led by and working with predominantly Black, Indigenous, and youth of color. What we want most is a world that values and invests in them, and to do so we need to make sure that their lived experiences are reflected in the books they have access to. Thus, we are in strong support of Freedom to Read, SB 1098.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that feature LGBTQIA2S+, Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color, as well as restrict access for students to understand the positive contributions and stories of individuals of marginalized identities. SB 1098 creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information (such as librarians and educators). This bill also ensures people have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities, and selves.

As a queer woman of color, I know what it's like to have grown up reading books where I wasn't able to see myself reflected in those characters. It's been beautiful to witness my younger siblings and cousins be able to read books that reflect themselves, their communities, and the world they are in. It has created a love for reading and learning within them that all students deserve to experience. We create a better world when we allow young people to learn

about the world they are in and begin to understand the different people in it. We support this bill so that students like my siblings, can have access to the rich histories of people across the U.S. and around the world..

SB 1098 does not change any individual parent's or guardian's right to monitor or oversee what their own children read or view. It does protect the rights of all parents and guardians for their children to have access to diverse representation in materials and history taught in the school setting. All students deserve to see themselves represented in the books, materials and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people.

We urge you to vote YES to support and advance SB 1098.

Thank you,

Jasia Mosley  
Policy Manager