

Submitter: Katherine Gladhart-Hayes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Book bans are antithetical to democracy because of the ways they are used to silence and marginalize disparate perspectives and experiences and to limit dissent. It is especially critical that the stories and viewpoints of individuals and groups who have been and are being targeted by bigotry and discrimination not be eliminated from public spaces. Limiting the freedom to read in public schools in this way impedes education and alienates children who do not have the opportunity to see their experiences and their communities represented. For LGBTQ+ children, it can be especially important to have the opportunity to see themselves represented in literature when they may not see themselves in their families or communities.