

Submitter: Nicole Reksopuro
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Nicole Reksopuro
Support for SB 1098
Senate Committee on Education
March 2nd, 2025

Chair Senator Lew Frederick, Vice-Chair Senator Suzanne Weber, and other members of the committee.

My name is Nicole Reksopuro and I am a resident from Happy Valley, Oregon. I approach this committee not just from the standpoint of a constituent, but as a student. Schools are a place for students to learn and excel, but without access to opportunities of knowledge- such as books, how can we expect individuals to learn?

As a student who grew up exploring the endeavors of Percy Jackson and The Hunger Games, I was fascinated about the realms of fantasy, non-fiction, and sci-fi. Now that I'm older, I realize that books have served a larger purpose than simply just entertainment. Reading introduces us to perspectives beyond our own, providing insight into different cultures, histories, and lived experiences. Books are a form of self-expression, not just for authors, but readers as well— a fundamental in our freedom of speech. The attempt to restrict access to literature— particularly books that highlight marginalized voices— stifles intellectual growth and reinforces ignorance. By limiting what students and readers can access, we are depriving them of the tools necessary to navigate and appreciate the complexities of the world around them.

To preserve this right, I urge you all to vote yes on The Freedom to Read Bill, SB 1098. The freedom to read is not just about access to books; it is about upholding the principles of free speech and resisting censorship. By supporting this bill, you will serve as an advocate for protecting the accessibility of knowledge, education, and speech as a critical provision in our state. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Nicole Reksopuro