



February 28, 2025

Skip Dye  
Chairman, Intellectual Freedom Task Force  
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Penguin Random House  
1745 Broadway  
New York, NY 10019

Senator Lew Frederick  
Chair, Oregon Senate Education Committee  
900 Court St. NE, S-419  
Salem, OR 97301

Members of the Oregon Senate Education Committee

**RE: Support for SB 1098 – Protecting the Freedom to Read in Oregon Public Schools**

Dear Chair Frederick and Members of the Oregon Senate Education Committee,

On behalf of Penguin Random House and as Chairman of our Intellectual Freedom Taskforce, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1098 (SB 1098), which would prohibit discriminatory book bans and censorship in Oregon's public schools.

As the world's largest trade book publisher, we have observed an increase nationwide in attempts to remove books from schools and libraries. Oregon is no exception to this trend. The state has seen an unprecedented rise in book challenges, overwhelmingly targeting stories by and about LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, and other historically marginalized communities. This situation jeopardizes students' rights to learn, read, and explore new ideas, as well as see their own identities, experiences, and histories reflected in the books read and discussed in their classrooms.

At Penguin Random House, our mission is to create books for everyone. We believe the ability to read freely and access perspectives across the spectrum of viewpoints and experiences is fundamental to an informed society and a thriving democracy. Research shows that having access to diverse literature enhances student engagement, academic success, and social-emotional growth. In contrast, censorship leads to ignorance, fear, and exclusion.

Senate Bill 1098 ensures that public schools are places of learning, inclusion, and open discourse—not areas for ideological censorship. It confirms that students in Oregon have the right to read, think independently, and engage with literature that represents the complexities of their



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world. Instead of removing decision-making power from educators or parents, SB 1098 maintains the principles of the First Amendment and anti-discrimination laws by ensuring that no public school in Oregon can prohibit books based on race, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic of the individuals depicted in the material.

The Supreme Court has consistently affirmed that students retain their constitutional rights within educational institutions. Oregon legislators now have the opportunity to further protect these rights by supporting the values of inclusion, education, and intellectual freedom. We respectfully request that this committee take prompt action in passing SB 1098, firmly establishing that Oregon will not tolerate discrimination, censorship, or the suppression of knowledge.

Sincerely,

**Skip Dye**  
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