

Submitter:

Heidi Montez

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1098

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

I am an early childhood music educator, a former PPS educator, a mental health counselor in training, a mother and a voter. I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 1098, a values-based bill which will prohibit discrimination based on the race, religion, ability, country of origin, sexuality, or gender of the individuals featured in the content of educational and library materials in K-12 public schools in Oregon.

Learning about each other makes our society stronger and safer and that is why I strongly support this bill that creates a statewide standard to ensure that students and all Oregonians have access to accurate representative information about their communities, their histories and selves. When books about Black, Indigenous, and people of color and LGBTQ+ people are banned in libraries and schools, youth and students with those identities will feel unacknowledged, excluded and lose a sense of belonging. I worry that a book ban will signal that discrimination, and bullying against young people with those identities will become acceptable.

SB 1098 will 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. I want younger generations to feel proud, supported and connected to a place where they can feel embraced by their community while developing critical thinking skills in their learning environments. Please vote yes on SB 1098.

Thank you