

Submitter: Martha Dyer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I support SB 1098 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.

Students must have opportunities to choose the books they want to read, even if they are about different ideas or experiences, because reading and access to information helps them learn about the world and be better thinkers and do-ers. They deserve to see their own experiences, identities, and communities reflected in the books they read. Books can be used as tools to consider and develop values and opinions. Students need access to quality information also in order to make informed decisions.

Our freedoms that are worth standing up for. Book bans pose a threat to freedom of speech and choice. For these reasons, I support SB 1098 for students now and generations in the future.