

Submitter: Mark Hardin
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I give my strong endorsement of SB 1098. A wave of censorship has taken our nation and is present here in Oregon.

For an example, see this report from December of 2024:

<https://www.orartswatch.org/efforts-to-ban-books-in-oregon-libraries-are-on-the-rise-library-patrons-and-supporters-are-pushing-back/#:~:text=The%20most%20common%20reasons%20for,Library%20of%20Oregon's%202024%20report.>

This bill sets a standard for the responsible review of classroom and library reading materials. It calls for ODE to provide assistance and make sure that challenged materials are considered in a sensible, consistent process. Those who oppose the bill appear to believe that it would dis-empower school board members. But the opposite is true. Providing teachers, administrators and board members tools and procedures to consider materials, SB 1098 strengthens our education system and shelters the rights of protected groups from academic discrimination.