

Submitter: Kathe Welch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,
I write to offer support for SB 1098 which prohibits book banning. As a (retired) teacher, I know how important it is for students to read and how difficult it can be to get children interested in reading. Children are better learners when they are interested in what they are reading. Often, what appeals to adults is not something children want to read. And just as often, adults want to censor what children read, thus stifling their education.

Some misguided adults think certain subjects, such as racism, or science, are too difficult for children, but children are open to learning and curious about everything. Children can see themselves or their friends and family in books. This can help them to understand the world around them. It is the responsibility of adults to help answer questions children have, but not all adults are safe to ask all questions. Books can help children find the words to express themselves, to learn about people who are different from them and open up a child's imagination.

It is vital that adults in education and in lawmaking make age appropriate books available to our students. If an individual family wants to limit what their child reads, they should be able to do so, but they should not have the ability to make those choices for all families.

Please pass SB 1098.

Kathe Welch,
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