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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Testimony in Opposition to SB 1098
Oregon Senate Education Committee
March 3, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 1098. While I fully support the principle of ensuring equal access to education for all students, I strongly urge the committee to vote NO on this bill. My opposition stems from the critical need to maintain age-appropriate educational materials in our public schools and to respect the rights of parents in guiding their children's exposure to sensitive content.

SB 1098, as written, would prohibit schools from removing certain books, even if their content is developmentally inappropriate for young children. It is not "censorship" to ensure that five-year-olds are not exposed to explicit sexual content—it is common sense. Parents trust schools to provide an education that aligns with age-appropriate learning, not to introduce complex topics such as pornography and gender ideology to children who are just beginning their educational journey.

The role of public schools should be to educate, not to override the values and beliefs of parents. SB 1098 would strip local school districts and parents of their rightful role in ensuring that books and instructional materials reflect what is suitable for children at different developmental stages. Parents—not bureaucrats or activist organizations—should have the final say in what their young children are exposed to in a public school setting.

Furthermore, concerns about "discrimination" should not be used as a blanket justification to mandate access to materials that may be inappropriate for young readers. Schools already have policies in place to promote inclusivity without requiring exposure to content that many parents believe is not suitable for elementary-aged children. Parents are not asking for broad bans on literature—they are simply demanding that materials in school libraries and classrooms be appropriate for their child's age and maturity level.

Oregon's public education system should focus on academic excellence, literacy, and core subjects rather than advancing ideological agendas that many families do not support. SB 1098 would remove local control, silence parental concerns, and erode trust between families and schools. The state legislature should prioritize parental

rights and child-appropriate education over sweeping mandates that disregard community standards.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on SB 1098 and instead support policies that respect the role of parents in their children's education and uphold the principle that age appropriateness matters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.