

To: The Senate Committee on Education

Re: Senate Bill 1098 – Protect the Freedom to Read

From: Susan Barnes White, Library Director Emerita, Linfield College

Date: March 3, 2025

I fully support Senator Lew Frederick's proposed bill that will protect students' first amendment right as well as the foundations for our democracy. Having taught in higher education for 35 years, I know how crucial it is for our young people to cultivate the ability to think critically and beyond their own lived experience. Banning books does nothing to inculcate the ability to think and question. Letting a minority of parents dictate which books our children and grandchildren read does not create thinking and empathetic citizens.

Thank you.