

Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Weber, and members of the committee.

My name is Sonja Mckenzie – I serve on the Parkrose Board of Education and I am writing to urge you to support [Senate Bill 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.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that feature LGBTQIA+, Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color. topics or individuals and restrict access for students to understand the positive contributions of individuals of marginalized identities who have contributed to our society. This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information, for example librarians and educators. It also ensures students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and themselves.

As a former educator, an education advocate and mom to 4 young adults, I know how important it is for our youth to see their stories reflected in the books they read, and to know that they are not alone and there is nothing wrong with them. I support this bill so that students in Oregon can have access to all histories and cultures, they want to learn from.

[Senate Bill 1098](#) protects student's right to see themselves represented in the books, materials and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony today. We urge you to vote YES to support and advance [Senate Bill 1098](#).

Thank you,