

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

For the record, my name is Megan Quintrell, my pronouns are they/them, and you may have seen me around the building in another capacity. But today, I am joining you on behalf of myself, as a parent to my beautiful 8-year-old child, in support of SB 1098.

Prior to my current position, I served as a public educator for over 13 years and ended my career in education as an elementary school counselor. Throughout my time serving students, families, and the greater community, I gained a deep understanding of the diversity within each student body and the unique needs of the students and families I supported.

While working at schools, I intentionally showcased books in my office that represented the students and families I served, showing that their lives are valued and are to be celebrated. We know students thrive when they feel a strong sense of belonging in their school community. We also know that families are more likely to reach out in times of crisis or need when they have at least one trusted relationship built within a school.

As a counselor, books were often a tool used to help my students and families navigate the path from uncertainty to understanding across a range of topics.

On a personal level, as a queer individual who works tirelessly to protect my family in the face of ignorance, it is crucial that my child continues to see their lived experience—growing up in a blended, multilingual, multiracial, queer family— a family that harms no one—be recognized and celebrated in the stories and books they read.

SB 1098 does not alter a parent's or guardian's right to oversee what their children read or view. Instead, it safeguards the rights of all parents and guardians to access a wide range of diverse

representations in the materials and history taught in schools. Banning books doesn't protect children; it leaves them less equipped to engage with the world as informed citizens. Let's continue to foster critical thinking and move away from limiting access.

Thank you for the opportunity, we urge you to vote YES to support [Senate Bill 1098](#).

-Megan Quintrell