

Submitter: Julia Bynum Lewis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

The U.S. has been experiencing a huge increase in book ban attempts in the last couple years including in Oregon. Many of these attempts are trying to remove books by or about LGBTQ+ and/or BIPOC people. We know it is important for every child to find representation of themselves in their school library. Having such representation improves their ability to learn and feel that important sense of belonging.

Removing these items takes away people's choices of having actually diverse materials available to them. Removing these materials strengthens the message that we are trying to silence or erase LGBTQ+ and/or BIPOC voices.

Please support this bill to strengthen our non-discrimination laws and to help protect librarian's and parent's who are trying to stand fast in the face of those who haven't even read the books or tried to understand what they are actually about.

I have a couple suggestions for adjustments to make it even more inclusive: Please change pg.3 line 25 to say "people" or some other nonbinary version instead of just "men and women". Please also add nonbinary to the list on pg.3 line 31 (Section 6, 5e). Thank you for your time and consideration.