

March 3, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Ali King on behalf of Our Children Oregon's 2025 Children's Agenda

SUBJECT: Support for SB 1098

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO), a statewide organization that advances equitable policies, data and research, and whole-child advocacy. The Children's Agenda, convened annually by OCO, brings together more than 135 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the wellbeing of Oregon's children, youth, and families. **SB 1098 is included in the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.**

As a coalition of child and family advocates, educators, administrators, parents, and policy experts, we have seen firsthand how reading a variety of books, including those that challenge pre-existing viewpoints, helps to foster critical thinking. Reading diverse perspectives and ideas is a fundamental aspect of free speech. Book bans limit educational growth, erase parts of history and culture, and diminish opportunities for individuals, especially young people, to analyze and question different viewpoints. The repercussions of this can lead to a less informed and less tolerant society.

We urge you to protect Oregon students' right to read, learn, and share ideas free from discriminatory censorship by voting yes on SB 1098.

Sincerely,
Our Children Oregon
ACLU Oregon
Baby Blues Connection
Black Parent Initiative
Center for Childhood Safety and Wellbeing
Children's Institute
Latino Network
Next Up Action Fund
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon Association of Student Councils
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon School Nurses' Association
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Reach Out and Read NW
Southern Oregon Success
Urban League of Portland

View the [2025 Children's Agenda](#)