



**LISA FRAGALA**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 8  
FROM THE WILLAMETTE RIVER TO SPENCER BUTTE  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

March 3, 2025

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1098 in the Senate Committee on Education

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

As an educator who taught both Kindergarten and 2nd grade for 25 years I'm writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1098 which prohibits discrimination when selecting or retaining school library materials, textbooks, or instructional materials when developing and implementing a curriculum. This bill will go a long way to improving our educational settings in Oregon for all children and in upholding our state's democratic values.

As an elementary teacher, I love children's books. I personally had a large collection of diverse literature in my own classroom and observed daily the importance of students having access to a broad range of cultures, histories, and experiences in their learning. All students deserve to see themselves, their families, and their communities represented in the books and learning materials utilized in our schools. Book bans erase the voices and experiences of too many children, many who are already historically marginalized. We need learning environments that affirm students' identities so they feel empowered to learn. This will support their engagement in education and contribute to their success at school.

Additionally, censorship doesn't represent Oregon values or the future we want for ourselves and our communities. By having many voices, cultures and histories represented in our school libraries and educational materials, we promote important democratic values. Access to a diversity of thinking and respectful dialogue are the things we want our youth to understand and learn to navigate successfully. The ability to be open-minded and respectful of a variety of voices is critical for a democracy to function well. Banning books undermines all of this.

Please join me in supporting Senate Bill 1098 by rejecting the banning of books and other instructional materials in our schools. It is important we uphold free speech, critical thinking, and the ability to respect a diversity of ideas and experiences in Oregon. This is critical for the success of Oregon's students and for the future of a healthy democracy in our state.

Sincerely,

*Lisa M. Fragala*

Representative Lisa Fragala

