

Submitter: Rosanne Parry
On Behalf Of: American Booksellers Association and AABB
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Testimony SB 1098 3/3/2025

Good morning, my name is Rosanne Parry and I am here to speak in support of SB 1098. I am the author of 11 books for young readers and a member of Authors Against Book Bans. I am also a member of the American Booksellers Association working at the legendary Portland indie bookstore Annie Blooms Books. Before these professions I was an elementary educator with a specialty in reading instruction. During these professional endeavors I have raised four children--all avid readers--two of whom now practice law in Oregon.

I have devoted my life to the enterprise of literacy and believe firmly that all readers no matter their age have a right to select reading material of their own choice. I also firmly believe in a parent's right to guide and supervise their own children's reading.

As a mother I know which of my children are plagued with nightmares and which are not. I know the one who is grieving the death of a friend and the one who is struggling to understand a core piece of their human identity. It is my right and duty as a parent to guide my own children toward the books that will serve them best. I am grateful, so grateful, for the many librarians in my life who have given me generous and unbiased support in this endeavor.

Opponents of this bill might suggest we are planning to toss children willy-nilly into the tub of all books ever written. Not the case. That would be the internet--an entirely separate issue.

SB 1098 preserves every family's ability to guide their own children according to each one's need. Access to the widest range of books possible is critical and fundamental to each Oregonian's first amendment rights, and to their formation as literate human beings. Please vote in favor of this core human right.

Thank you.