

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

As a high school teacher librarian, I am writing in full support of Senate Bill 1098, the Right to Read bill. Having reviewed both the bill itself and many of the statements in opposition, I am even more convinced of its necessity. In the arguments against SB 1098, I saw clear evidence of the very discrimination this bill seeks to prevent—sometimes from individuals who claim they hold no bias. Many of the oppositional statements misrepresent or misunderstand the bill's intent, particularly regarding age-appropriate material in schools.

To be clear, SB 1098 does not allow or encourage the inclusion of sexually explicit or inappropriate material in school libraries. As professionals, school librarians are trained in curation and selection, using established review processes and professional standards to ensure age-appropriate collections that serve the diverse needs of our students. There is no scenario in which even remotely pornographic material would be included in an elementary library, for example, and to suggest otherwise is a gross misrepresentation of our work.

The role of a school librarian is not to force books on students but to provide access to information and stories that reflect the breadth of human experiences. A well-curated library allows students to see themselves represented, to explore solutions to problems beyond their own experiences, and to develop empathy for people who are different from them. SB 1098 upholds this principle by ensuring that books are not excluded simply because they include perspectives, histories, or identities of groups protected under ORS 659.850.

Furthermore, SB 1098 does not take away parental rights. Parents still have every opportunity to guide their own children's reading choices. What this bill does is prevent individuals with discriminatory biases from making those choices for **other people's children**. It ensures that our collections remain inclusive, professionally managed, and free from censorship based on prejudice rather than legitimate concerns about age-appropriateness or educational value.

The students I work with every day come from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, and political perspectives. They deserve access to books that reflect their realities and challenge them to think critically about the world. SB 1098 protects that right, ensuring that all students—regardless of who they are—have the freedom to read, learn, and grow in an environment free from discrimination.

I strongly urge you to support this bill. Thank you for your time and commitment to Oregon's students.

Sincerely,
Amary Taylor