

Submitter: Christy Davis  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Weber, and members of the committee.

My name is Christy Davis from Silverton and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 1098, which will prohibit discrimination based on the race, religion, ability, country of origin, sexuality, or gender of the individuals featured in the content of educational and library materials in K-12 public schools in Oregon.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that feature Black, indigenous and other people of color, as well as LGBTQIA+ topics, or individuals, and restrict access for students to understand the positive contributions of individuals of marginalized identities who have contributed to our society. This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information, for example librarians and educators. It also ensures students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves.

I am a public library director and have been working in public libraries for almost 30 years. We see students every day who are dealing with censors – including from the administrations of their schools in their libraries and classrooms. Book bans and censorship are profoundly undemocratic. Our society is made up of people from different backgrounds, belief systems and worldview. It is critical that literature in high schools reflects lived experiences and real-world scenarios. Every student deserves a place at the table, and every student deserves to see written works that reflect them, that let them know that they are OK and not alone.

Senate Bill 1098 protects students' rights to see themselves represented in the books, materials and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story today. We urge you to vote YES to support and advance Senate Bill 1098.

Thank you and sincerely,

Christy Davis, Director  
Silver Falls Library District