

Submitter: Kathleen Veldhuisen
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 Kathleen Veldhuisen. I am a Marion County resident and 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 LGBTQIA2S+, Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color. 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.

As someone who has a trans family member in the school system, I want to see that they are able to see themselves represented in literature, and that they are able to find information that supports their personal experience.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I urge you to vote YES on SB1098.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Veldhuisen