

Submitter: Janet Calderon  
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 Janet Calderon and I am from Portland, Oregon. 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 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. It also ensures students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves.

I am a college librarian and everyday i work with students across a spectrum of identities and experiences. I get to watch as college students come out of environments where their ideas and expression has been restricted, and see time and time again as they come to terms with the diversity of people they may have not had a chance to grow up with, or the diversity of their own self-expression which they may not have been given the space to explore. This happens time and again, and in my experience too, any kind of censorship ultimately ends up hurting them. It can delay coming to terms with themselves and the people around them. It can cause irreparable harm to those who feel too alone.

Senate Bill 1098 protects student's right 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 read this. I urge you to vote YES to support and advance Senate Bill 1098.

Thank you,

Janet Calderon