

Submitter: Carson Mischel  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

My name is Carson Mischel 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 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 have been working in public libraries in Oregon for 15 years and have seen first hand the positive impact diverse books have on young people and the community. Young people must have the opportunity to see themselves in the books they read. They must also have the opportunity to learn and build empathy by reading books that reflect people who are different from themselves. We must protect books and the freedom to read. At the very least, everyone should have the same opportunities to find books that reflect their identities.

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