

Submitter: Stacy Higby
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I'm writing in support of SB 1098 to prevent discrimination in public schools when choosing textbooks, program materials, instructional materials, or library materials. I'm asking you to vote to support the bill when it comes to a vote either in committee or on the floor.

As a library worker and the parent of an LGBTQ+ young person, I know how important it is for Oregon students to see themselves reflected in their schools and communities. My child faced bullying and discrimination while attending Oregon schools. It is critically important to carefully select books, magazines, educational videos and experiences that reflect our student populations in a way that's culturally and linguistically appropriate, and to ensure that important educational texts and materials are available to those students who need them.

The country is experiencing a huge increase in attempts to censor library and curriculum materials in public schools, many of these driven by just a handful of extremists and not supported by the vast majority of Americans or Oregonians. Many of these attempts are blatantly in opposition to materials about and/or authored by people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community. These censorship attempts are intended to limit materials available to Oregon students based on the constitutionally protected viewpoints of these materials. I believe that SB 1098 will bring needed clarity to help schools and school boards comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850 and help prevent these book bans and removal attempts.

Thank you for taking the time to hear by story today. Please vote YES to support and advance Senate Bill 1098.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stacy Higby, Silverton