

Submitter: Amy Page
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

As a district librarian and a parent of high school students, I strongly support SB 1098 because it reinforces the principle that school libraries should provide students with diverse, well-curated, and age-appropriate materials without unnecessary censorship. School librarians are trained professionals who follow established selection policies to ensure library collections reflect a broad range of perspectives and support students' educational needs. This bill upholds intellectual freedom and students' right to explore literature, engage with diverse ideas, and develop critical thinking skills.

SB 1098 promotes access to inclusive materials that encourage students to think beyond themselves and explore the world around them. A well-rounded library offers both "windows" and "mirrors," allowing students to see themselves in literature while also encountering different perspectives. Without the protections this bill provides, a small but vocal group could dictate what books remain on the shelves, potentially silencing marginalized voices and restricting educational opportunities. This bill ensures our schools remain spaces of open inquiry and knowledge.