

Submitter: Jon Buckley
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 Jon Buckley from Medford 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.

As a teacher of 25 years who reads aloud to students every day, I have had countless students connect with characters who are like them. These students frequently tell me that they've never read a book with a child who has been adopted, or has two moms, or has had a friend suddenly die like they've had. We know well that people who attempt to ban books do so out of ignorance and fear. They do so out of lack of education and subjective oppressive beliefs and rejection of any person who does not fit their own demographic. We know that book bans are the first domino to fall on the way to fascism.

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 hear my story today. We urge you to vote YES to support and advance Senate Bill 1098.

Thank you, Jon Buckley, M.Ed. 5th Grade Teacher, Rogue River School District