

Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Weber, and members of the committee.

My name is Ann Moore from Salem, Oregon and I am writing to urge you to support [Senate Bill 1098](#), the Freedom to Read Bill, 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 LGBTQ people, Black people, Indigenous people, other people of color and other groups such as people living with mental or physical challenges, who have not been well understood by the community. They may also seek to ban topics that are not well understood, 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 themselves.

As a former public school teacher in District 4-J, I observed some of my fourth grade students being taunted by their classmates because they had one or more family members who were members of the LGBTQ community, persons of color, persons living with physical disabilities, or members of other groups who have been traditionally excluded from the picture of “normality” in reading materials for children. I saw the pain and frustration experienced by those children, who were made to feel inferior by others who had not been taught to feel compassion or to understand the challenges that some families experience when they are not accepted by the community or otherwise struggle to provide safe, nurturing homes for their children.

[Senate Bill 1098](#) protects student’s right to see themselves and/or their family members 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. My husband and I urge you to vote YES to support and advance [Senate Bill 1098](#).

Sincerely,

Ann M. Moore