

Submitter: Korie Buerkle
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 Korie Jones Buerkle from Newberg 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.

As a librarian for over 25 years I have seen how important it is for youth to see themselves reflected in the stories they read. It is imperative in the education of our youth for them to access stories that not only reflect themselves but also help them understand others. Books build understanding and empathy.

As the parent of two teenagers I want to ensure that my children have access to fiction stories and also accurate history that reflects more than just the history of white people in our country.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that feature LGBTQIA2S+, Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color.

This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information.

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

Thank you,
Korie Jones Buerkle
Parent & Librarian