

Submitter: Amanda Lamb  
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 Amanda Lamb from Newberg, Oregon, 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. We also see regular concerns about books representing religious beliefs. 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.

I am a public librarian as well as a mother and a member of our community. I have seen firsthand the importance of providing stories and information reflecting the lived experiences of all types of families in our community and beyond. It is essential for children and youth to see themselves and their families represented in our libraries. As a librarian, I have had concerns expressed by patrons about materials from all different viewpoints, including religious texts and stories. If we were to remove materials at the whim of everyone who expressed such concerns, we would have very little time to focus on the vital programming and services we provide to our community. And our collections would be the lesser for it. I support this bill so that our community can have access to different viewpoints, varying cultures, and so that I, as a professional librarian, am not limited by political whims.

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, Amanda Lamb