

Submitter: Jennifer Hehnke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I am a high school literature and social studies teacher and also a parent of children in the public schools. I write in support of SB 1098 to protect our children's access to diverse stories that enlighten and inspire, that provide the mirrors but also the windows into other humans' lives. Without these stories that allow us to get beyond our own echo chamber and own bubble, we risk losing our ability to empathize, create bonds, and strengthen our whole communities.

As a teacher, a primary purpose of education is to help us all understand our entire history that includes the reality that we are a diverse community with many and varied experiences. As a parent, my hope is that my children will learn as much about the world as possible, with stories that uplift and reflect as many experiences of those around them as possible. I want my kids and students to love reading and build empathy through hearing from a diverse range of voices.