

Submitter:

Nicholas Netzel

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 Nic Netzel from Portland 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 Parent, a Citizen in a Democracy, a Student of History, and a School Librarian, I have a deep awareness of the importance of books and reading for human development, and creating informed compassionate empathetic participants in a democratic society. I also know that never in history have book banners been on the right side of history. I also know that parents have the responsibility to be aware of what their children are reading AND the responsibility to be the kind of parent a child wouldn't want to hide from: it is irresponsible to shift that parental duty on to other parents, teachers, and librarians, and it impedes on the freedoms of others when such parents attempt to enact laws that impose on another parent's rights.

Beyond national constitutional rights, there is also a dangerous trend of using book bans to harm people of marginalized communities. Especially from national groups originating outside of the communities and locales they are targeting.

Senate Bill 1098 is a simple, common sense bill that honors and respects 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, Nic Netzel