

Submitter: Donald Allgeier

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 Don Allgeier from Rockaway Beach and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 1098, which will prohibit discrimination in the content of educational and library materials in K-12 public schools in Oregon. It will also support and protect those library workers that devote their working time to enhancing the literacy of our children.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that people disagree with due to those materials focusing on people that are different from the the people who object to those materials, and that is not how a free society should operate. This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information for community members, librarians, and educators. It also ensures students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves.

As someone who has worked in libraries for twenty years, I have seen the transformative value of libraries in people's lives. This is made only more true when the materials that libraries carry speak to the different experiences of all the people in our community. At a time when I watch our communities struggle through political and cultural differences, we must be able to share the stories that make sure we can see ourselves as a whole community where everyone belongs and can thrive.

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. I urge you to vote yes to support and advance Senate Bill 1098.

Thank you,  
Don Allgeier