

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Keenan Yoshizawa and I am a sophomore student at Willamette University, double majoring in Politics, Policy, Law, and Ethics and History. I am testifying in support of SB 1098.

I believe that censorship should not be a goal of our government, especially when they target people from minority communities. In order to understand each other, we must hear each other and learn through others' experiences. We should be encouraging students to explore the world through books. To understand and experience perspectives that are different from their own. But, how can they do that when they are being restricted in the content that they can read?

Some of my favorite books have been on banned book lists. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky are books that have been some of my favorites. In 2023, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* was number four on the American Library Association's list of Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2023. Not only are these books a source of entertainment and enjoyment, they also provide unique perspectives on racial discrimination and teenage adolescence.

I strongly urge you to support SB 1098.

Thank you for your time,
Keenan Yoshizawa