

Submitter: Amanda Woodruff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I am writing in support of SB1098 to protect students' access to diverse and inclusive literature in our public schools.

It is important that all students are able to see themselves in books and to also read stories about those who are different. Most book challenges target characters or authors that are LGBTQ+ and/or people of color, but those kids exist in our schools and they deserve to see themselves represented as much as anyone else.

The argument that children are reading inappropriate materials is disingenuous. Just because someone disagrees with the content of a book doesn't make it obscene. School districts already have selection criteria that governs what is purchased for library collections. Parents can decide what their kids read, but not what everyone else's kids read. Allowing developmentally appropriate books to be removed from libraries actually prevents families from making their own parenting decisions.

Please vote YES to support and advance SB1098.