March 4, 2025

Oregon State Legislature 900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the [Committee Name],

As an Oregon resident, writer, organizer, National Writers Union member, and dedicated volunteer for causes that uplift and empower our communities, I strongly support the proposed legislation that prohibits discrimination in the selection and retention of school library materials, textbooks, and instructional content, as well as in the development and implementation of curriculum.

Access to diverse and inclusive educational materials is fundamental to a well-rounded, quality education. Our school libraries and classrooms must reflect the voices, histories, and experiences of all communities, ensuring that students have the opportunity to see themselves represented while also learning about others. This legislation is a necessary step to uphold academic freedom, fight censorship, and protect the rights of students to receive an education that is free from bias, discrimination, or exclusion.

Attempts to censor or remove educational materials based on ideological or political motivations undermine the very foundation of our public education system. Such actions disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities and limit students' ability to engage critically with the world around them. Upholding principles of inclusivity and equity in education benefits not only our students but also the broader society, fostering a culture of understanding, empathy, and intellectual growth.

I urge the committee and the Oregon State Legislature to pass this bill and affirm our state's commitment to educational equity. Our students deserve access to a curriculum and library collections that reflect the full diversity of human experiences and perspectives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Kacey Carpenter <u>NWU Oregon</u>