

March 4, 2025

Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Weber, and members of the committee.

My name is Kristina Cevallos, a middle school teacher-librarian, 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.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that feature LGBTQIA2S+, Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color, topics or individuals, and restrict access for students to understand the positive contributions of individuals of marginalized identities who have contributed to our society. This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information, for example librarians and educators. It also ensures students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves.

As a middle school teacher-librarian and a former classroom teacher in U.S. and international schools, I have witnessed the importance of my students seeing themselves reflected in the books they read. Books serve as windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors. In the words of Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, known as the mother of multicultural children's literature . . .

"Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection, we can see our own lives and experiences as part of a larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and readers often seek their mirrors in books."

SB 1098 is a commonsense, values-based bill that will protect students in our state from discriminatory book bans and censorship in our public schools. This bill prohibits discriminatory censorship based on race, national origin, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, physical or mental disability, military status, or marital or family status.

[Senate Bill 1098](#) protects students' rights to see themselves represented in the books, materials, libraries, and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I urge you to vote YES to support and advance [Senate Bill 1098](#).

Sincerely,



Kristina M. Cevallos
Middle School Teacher-Librarian
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