

Submitter: Craig Hallman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I am testifying in support of SB 1098, as a school librarian.

Adding and removing books from a school library has long been a task I take very seriously but, in recent years, politics and “culture wars” have added non-academic pressures from which I need protection.

I am a trained and experienced professional who knows our students and the curriculum. I also take the family and religious values of our students very seriously in book selection. I am in constant conversation with teachers, students, families and fellow librarians about which books are appropriate or inappropriate for the collection.

This process has worked very well but, recently, there has been increased interference and even intimidation by outsiders who have other agendas. I believe that SB 1098 will re-center my ability to support our students by formalizing and clarifying the process of book challenges.