

Submitter:

Emily Buffy

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1098

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

My name is Emily, I live in Albany, OR and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 1098! Please vote in favor of this Bill, which supports the fundamental freedom to read and 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 LGBTQ+ people, Black people, Indigenous people, etc. as well as books with information on these topics, 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.

I and my household are strongly in support of SB1098. I work with teens regularly and know how important it is for them to read about and experience perspectives from those that are both similar and different from themselves. This is a key factor in developing their sense of identity and community. It helps them work with those that are different than them, it helps them develop empathy, it opens their world and imagine their futures. I support this bill so that the teens I work with can have access to all histories and cultures, and so that I in my work am not limited by political whims. Senate Bill 1098 protects student's right to see themselves represented in the books, materials and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story today. We urge you to vote YES to support and advance Senate Bill 1098.

Thank you,  
Emily Buffy