

Submitter: Lisa Tegethoff  
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 Lisa Tegethoff from Lewis Elementary School in Portland, 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 an elementary librarian with a diverse library full of books, I feel confident that the students who enter our school library will always be able to find a book that: provides a mirror to reflect their own experience, a window by which to explore and experience the lives of others, or a door by which the reader is transported into a world in which they may feel empathy and connection to the characters within the pages. Feeling connected to oneself or one's community is so important to our young people as they grow and learn and develop their own sense of self. Books help these young people see the possibilities and also to understand that they are not alone. I support this bill so that my students can have access to all histories and cultures, and so that I as an educator am not limited by political whims or individual families who may disagree with the content of a book.

I fully support a parent's right to limit what their OWN child is exposed to and encourage my families to have open and honest conversations with their students about the choices they make in the library. I do my very best to support a parent's choice for their own child with book choices. SB 1098 protects ALL parents rights to make decisions for their own children.

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