

Submitter: Janet Setness

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I support this measure wholeheartedly. As a retired school librarian and reading teacher, I understand the power of books and reading in our lives. Reading is a gateway to learning about and understanding our world while sitting home in our own little space. As a college student working on my degree, I watched as my two-year-old son devoured the picture books I was reading for an assignment. He ended up reading past the 12th grade level on reading tests in the fourth grade. As a sixth grader, he read the Denver newspaper for current events and enjoyed the political cartoons as he knew what they were about. A reader always was made as he's now a man of 48.

As a professional, I handled the occasional concern about a book. A third grader was concerned he was reading a book he was enjoying until he found a "dirty" word in it. His parents later thanked me for alerting them to the concern so they could have a talk with him about what the correct name for a human body part was and deal with his misunderstanding. A grandparent raising an 8th grade boy had a concern about a science book showing the body's systems and the correct word used to describe a body part. I handled that concern, too. I have sat on book reconsideration committees and know full well it is a reasonable process that every library of any sort should have in place.

I currently am recuperating from the flu and can't think of anything else to add. Not at my best right now.