

Submitter: Brian Jensvold
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1098, which seeks to ensure that all students in Oregon have access to a broad, diverse, and inclusive range of educational materials. This bill is a critical step forward in fostering an educational environment that is free from discrimination and fully representative of the diverse world we live in.

As an advocate for equity in education, I believe this bill will help create a more inclusive curriculum by prohibiting the exclusion of library materials, textbooks, and instructional materials based on the author's background or the subject matter, as long as these materials do not discriminate against others. The bill ensures that the voices and perspectives of historically marginalized groups are not silenced, and it helps all students see themselves reflected in what they learn.

It is a fact that the ideals of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion have been recently and are currently/actively under attack by our federal government as well as several closeminded individuals whom wish to impose their opinions on everyone. Unsatisfied with the idea of needing to take personal responsibly of shielding their kids (if they even have any) from things they don't like, they demand that anyone with a differing opinion or view must be just as restricted. It is through this mentality that fascism begins to take root. We cannot allow this to happen.

Senate Bill 1098 also takes essential steps to protect academic freedom and intellectual diversity, ensuring that educational materials are selected based on merit, educational value, and relevance rather than being influenced by partisan or ideological bias. It affirms that no group should be excluded from educational content simply because their perspectives or experiences are unpopular or controversial.

One of the most important provisions of the bill is the requirement that any removal of educational materials be done through a formal process that involves a committee review and a public explanation. This promotes transparency, accountability, and community involvement, ensuring that decisions about what is taught in our schools are made thoughtfully and in the best interest of students, rather than at the whim of individuals with narrow or discriminatory views.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 1098, as it is a necessary measure to protect students' right to a comprehensive, diverse, and nondiscriminatory education. This bill will help ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn from a wide range of perspectives, which is vital in preparing them to be informed, engaged, and compassionate citizens in our increasingly interconnected world.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the passage of this important bill.