

Submitter: Scott Rick
On Behalf Of: South Salem HS Library
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

This bill reinforces the notion that in Oregon schools, choosing/retaining books and developing curriculum should be free from discriminatory influence. Under this proposed bill, schools and school boards would still have the authority to oversee book selection and curriculum choices in schools, and parents and students would still have the right to challenge/question book and curriculum decisions. This bill simply clarifies that challenges to school books and curriculum cannot be based on rationale that is discriminatory.

It is disturbing to see that some of the comments in opposition to this bill seem to indicate a desire to be able to discriminate against some of our most vulnerable populations. If for example, someone does not believe that the LGBTQ community should be afforded the same rights as everyone else, I can understand that they would not be comfortable with this bill. The presence of vocal support for the right to discriminate indicates the need for this bill in order to solidify Oregon's commitment to shaping a society free from discrimination.