

As a parent, I strongly support Oregon Senate Bill 1098, the "Freedom to Read" bill. It deeply worries me that my children—and all children—could be denied access to books that teach them about different cultures, perspectives, and the experiences of marginalized communities. Schools should be places of learning and growth, not censorship and fear.

In recent years, I've seen more and more attempts to ban books that explore race, gender identity, and LGBTQ+ stories—books that help kids develop empathy and critical thinking. The idea that my children's education could be limited by these narrow viewpoints is both frustrating and frightening. I want them to grow up with the ability to understand and respect people from all walks of life, not be shielded from the realities of the world.

SB 1098 is essential because it ensures that all students have access to a diverse range of materials that reflect the world around them. It protects our children's right to learn, to ask questions, and to broaden their perspectives. I urge our legislators to pass this bill and stand up for intellectual freedom and inclusivity in our schools.