

Submitter: Melissa Owens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Dear Chair Senator Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the committee,

I'm calling on you to support SB 1098 to prevent discriminatory book bans and protect the freedom to read!

Freedom and fairness are Oregon values, and that means the freedom to read, think, and learn. Censoring ideas through discriminatory book bans goes against what we believe as a state.

Oregon can't wait any longer to take action. In recent years, our state has suffered more challenges than ever before to school and library books. Just like we have seen across the country, these books are often by or about people of color, women, and LGBTQ+ people.

SB 1098 prohibits discriminatory book bans and censorship in Oregon public schools based on race, sex, gender identity, and other protected classes. The time has come for the Legislature to take action and protect students' freedom to read, think, and learn!

Thank you so much for your time.