

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1098

I am a high school teacher and strongly support SB 1098. Every year, I see a diverse population of students all carrying their own weights as they attempt to keep their grades up, families together, food on the table. Many feel as if they are drowning; books have been a lifeline for these students. Seeing their own struggles, challenges, and identities mirrored back at them allows students to accept things about themselves they maybe never knew others struggled with. It allows children a chance to see themselves on the pages, making choices and gaining hope. It allows others to see the beauty in the diversity of humanity, to experience empathy for those different from themselves, to grow as people. Every child should have these same opportunities. If discrimination is allowed when selecting or retaining school library and classroom materials, many of our students would never have that lifeline sent their way. They will continue feeling alone in an impossible struggle and unable to take the steps needed to become better people. If that discrimination is allowed, students wouldn't get the chance to walk in someone else's shoes and understand them better. It would further ostracize students on the outside and hinder the personal growth of students privileged enough to be on the inside.

Pass SB 1098 so all students can have a better future.

Thank you