

Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Weber, and members of the committee.

My name is Alyssa Donoho from Grants Pass and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 1098, which will prohibit discrimination based on the race, religion, ability, country of origin, sexuality, or gender of the individuals featured in the content of educational and library materials in K-12 public schools in Oregon.

In Josephine County, Three Rivers School District school board members have questioned why they cannot simply remove books that they disagree with. One school board member went so far as to suggest burning books that she did not agree with, and asked if the board could “ban a class of books.” Grants Pass School District 7 school board members have attempted to remove books they disagree with in a school library. They did not follow their own established policy and continue to disregard the expertise of their only district librarian. This is deeply concerning and illustrates why we need SB1098.

With school book bans increasing, schools need support navigating these challenges in their communities. SB 1098 will create a direct support position at ODE for licensed school librarians, classified library staff, teachers, and administrators on intellectual freedom.

SB1098 does not change any individual parent’s or guardian’s right to monitor or oversee what their own children read or view. It does protect the rights of ALL parents and guardians for their children to have access to diverse representation in materials and history taught in the school setting.

SB 1098 protects students’ right to see themselves represented in the books, materials and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story today. We urge you to vote YES to support and advance Senate Bill 1098.

Thank you,

Alyssa Donoho

Grants Pass