

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

My name is Patience Bingham from Portland 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 North Carolina I drove a bookmobile in a mainly rural area. I worked hard to have a varied collection to serve and represent various segments of the population of adults and children and to provide a window on the wider world. Children were very excited to come and look at the books and make their selections. Some came alone and some came with parents. Banning books creates a great disservice to the community because reading is an important way of learning and it should not be restricted except as individual parents want to for their own children.

This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information, for example librarians and educators. It also ensures students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story today. I urge you to vote YES to support and advance [Senate Bill 1098](#).