

Submitter: Chelsea Donoho
On Behalf Of: SB1098
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for SB1098, a critical piece of legislation that ensures the upholding of Oregon's values of fairness and inclusivity, and the first amendment in Oregon's school libraries and curriculum selection. Right now more than ever it is vital that we protect students from censorship and discrimination that limit their access to a broad spectrum of ideas, cultures, and histories.

Every student in Oregon deserves an education that reflects the rich diversity of our communities and our world. By prohibiting discrimination in selecting or retaining school library materials and curriculum, SB1098 ensures that students from all backgrounds—no matter their race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or cultural identity—see themselves represented in the stories they read and the lessons they learn.

Without this protection, we risk depriving our children of critical learning experiences that shape them into compassionate, informed, and engaged citizens. The suppression of books, voices, and histories is not just an issue of policy; it is a moral issue. When we erase narratives or exclude perspectives, we tell students that their identities and experiences do not matter. This is not the message we should send in a state that values equality, diversity, and the pursuit of knowledge.

We must stand against the growing wave of book bans and curriculum restrictions that seek to silence marginalized voices. We must protect teachers, librarians, and educators who dedicate their lives to fostering critical thinking and intellectual freedom. And most importantly, we must stand up for our children, ensuring that they have the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in an environment that embraces truth, inclusivity, and reality.

I urge you to support SB1098 and to champion the rights of all students to receive a fair and complete education. Our democracy, our communities, and our future depend on it.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Oregon's students.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Donoho