

Submitter: Pamela Dickson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

SB1098 is shrouded in vague generalizations and I am opposed to lawmakers in Salem being given more power and control over our local entities. Our school libraries need to be controlled more at the local level, not less. This seems to put more control in the hands of government instead of parents and local school boards. Local folks should be making decisions about their local schools and materials, not someone in Salem. Each school district should reflect the community standards, not a one size fits all.

The language of the bill is vague, and interpretation could be easily biased. "...may not prohibit the use of, or refuse to approve the use of, program materials on the basis that the program materials include a perspective, study or story of, or are created by, any individual or group against whom discrimination is prohibited." I am aware there are books in school libraries which contain inappropriate material. In some communities, parents have been trying to get these removed and this bill would make it more difficult. This bill can be improperly used to harm our children by allowing books which are not appropriate to remain in school libraries and/or classrooms.

Is there evidence that discrimination has taken place?

"SECTION 8. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage."

I would ask where the immediate need exists for this bill? Why is Section 8 necessary to declare an emergency about this issue?

Who is at risk if this emergency is not declared? This seems a bit far fetched to say that there is an immediate need to declare an emergency about this matter. What are the framers of this bill afraid of? Who is being discriminated against?

I am asking you to VOTE NO on SB1098.

Respectfully submitted,