

Submitter: Aubrey Pagenstecher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

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

My name is Aubrey Pagenstecher 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.

As an elementary school librarian, I get to see the impact firsthand when students both see their own lived experiences mirrored in books as well as when they gain empathy for others who they may share little in common with. All children deserve to have their experiences celebrated, regardless of their zip code.

Senate Bill 1098 protects the right for ALL families to make decisions about what their student can or cannot read, rather than allowing someone else to make that decision for them. It also protects my student's 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.