

Submitter: Daniel Urbanski  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing as a concerned parent and Oregon resident to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1098, also known as the “Freedom to Read” bill. This important legislation, Relating to access to materials in schools, will help ensure that all students in Oregon’s public schools have access to diverse and inclusive books and learning materials. I believe SB 1098 is critical to maintaining an equitable, high-quality education for our children, and I urge you to support and pass this bill.

As an Oregonian, I have seen firsthand how important it is for students to have access to a wide range of books. When students find books that reflect their own identities or introduce them to different cultures and perspectives, it can be a profoundly affirming and educational experience. I want my child – and all children in our state – to feel represented, welcomed, and safe in their schools

By supporting SB 1098, you will be taking a stand for educational freedom, inclusion, and the quality of our public schools. This bill upholds Oregon’s longstanding values of equality and rejects discrimination in the classroom. It will help our teachers and librarians continue to do their jobs of providing age-appropriate, diverse, and enriching materials without undue political pressure. It will also spare school districts from potential costly lawsuits over unconstitutional censorship, by clarifying that discriminatory book bans have no place in our state. In short, SB 1098 ensures that educators and families can focus on teaching and learning – not on fighting ideological battles over books.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your service to Oregon’s communities. Please vote in favor of SB 1098 and help make our schools places where every student can freely explore books and ideas in a supportive, non-discriminatory environment.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Urbanski