

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

My name is Rhea Wolf 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.

Sometimes a book is the only place we see ourselves represented, the only place we feel welcome and included. As a queer kid growing up in rural Kansas, books were lifelines for me. That is what books are. Lifelines. Books save us, they challenge us, they educate us. They open us up to experiences that are different from our own as well, which is essential in order to build an open and functioning democracy. Stop the outrageous censorship of books in our schools and everywhere. These people are against freedom and trying to silence and erase anyone who is different from their own narrow identities. Support HB 1028 and the majority of Oregonians who believe we should have the freedom to read the books we choose.

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](#).