

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

My name is Janine Winters, from Portland, and I am writing to urge you to support SB1098, 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.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that feature LGBTQIA2S+, Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color representative topics, and restrict access for students to understand the positive contributions of movements and individuals of marginalized identities who have contributed to our society.

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.

As a queer adult, I know how alienating, confusing, and painful it can be when you don't see yourself reflected in the books and other media within your grasp. As a parent of a queer kid, I can see my child bloom confidently in an environment where her identity is normalized by her environment, especially in the books stocked in her school, the locus of truth and knowledge during these critical years of her development. **I want this for all Oregonian children, whatever their identity.**

SB1098 protects 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 SB1098.

Thank you, Janine Winters