

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

My name is Wendy Harris and I am from Eugene, 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.

All students deserve to see themselves represented in the books, materials and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people. Book bans are tactics used to erase and silence the voices, lived experiences, and histories of our most marginalized communities.

I urge you to support SB1098, thank you!