

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

My name is Carissa Loft 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.

I am a therapist, a student at PSU studying my masters in social work. As a youth with a challenging upbringing, books saved my life. Books are what shaped me into who I am today, and it is NOT acceptable to give one person power to ban people's freedom and right to read.

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](#).