

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

My name is David Madsen from Salem 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 clean public schools for a living, and am writing in support of SB 1098, in hopes of preventing discriminatory book banning. In these tumultuous times, it is more important than ever to stand for the rights of our most vulnerable - and in this case, the right to so much as EXIST in books and schools. For myself personally, I cannot understate how enriched my life has been for having the people we seek to protect involved in my life. And in spite of the happiness and love that LGBTQ+ people embody, already there are federal attempts to erase these people from the public perception - a heinous act simply meant to oppress for the sake of oppression. We MUST stand against it. Furthermore, children deserve to see LGBTQ+ people represented in the books they're likely to see. They deserve to know that, as always, people make up a rich tapestry of experiences - and in so doing, learn things about themselves they had never considered. For those children unsure of who they are - who may themselves be LGBTQ+ - they deserve to see themselves represented and celebrated, not erased and silenced. And for these reasons, I hope you will protect children's access to such knowledge, and vote yes on SB 1098. Thank you for your time.