

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

My name is SueZeev Ranseen, 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'm speaking today to support SB 1098, which I understand as a bill that will prevent discriminatory book banning. I believe that children have the right to access important knowledge that will help them learn and grow. Learning from a diversity of backgrounds and stories help children and people grow and become more accepting of others. I was very lucky to be introduced to a variety of books as a child that helped me learn about those who where like and not like me, and helped me grow into the person I am.

From science to religion, to mythology, to books by and about people of color, books that taught me about disability. I wish I had access to the queer and gender expansive books that are available today. Shutting off books shuts off the world from readers. History had taught us that book bans are used by the most oppressive forms of government to suppress the understanding and voices of their people. Why would Oregon want to follow in the footsteps of those regimes instead of protecting reading for all? I hope you will all protect children's and people of all ages access to knowledge today, and vote yes on SB 1098. Thank you.