

Submitter:

Brandon Buerkle

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1098

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

My name is Brandon Buerkle from Newberg, OR 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.

Here and across the country we have seen myriad efforts to ban books that feature topics in support of or individuals who are a part of a group that has been historically discriminated against, and restrict access for students to understand the positive contributions of 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 like librarians and educators. It also ensures students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves.

As a parent and educator, I know the value to my children and my students of having access to materials that show windows into the lives and experiences of people different from themselves, and mirrors that reflect their own experiences.

Senate Bill 1098 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 read my testimony. I urge you to vote YES to support and advance Senate Bill 1098.

Thank you,

Brandon Buerkle