

Submitter: Katrina Ehrnman-Newton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I have worked in public libraries for over ten years, and now work as an academic librarian in southern Oregon. I happily support SB 1098. This measure would prevent book bans and other forms of censorship in Oregon public schools if the ban or censorship constitutes discrimination based on race, national origin, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, physical or mental disability, military status or marital or family status.

The patterns of book bans throughout our country have clear patterns of overwhelmingly restricting access to books that feature BIPOC characters, queer characters, and social issues that are controversial. This sends a harmful message to children who see themselves in those characters, that they aren't acceptable and deserve to be banned from public spaces. As a parent and professional, I would never want such a message to reach any child.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this measure.