

Submitter: Laura Crook

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and members of the House Committee on Education,

For the record, my name is Laura Crook, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 1098. Now more than ever, freedom of speech and academic freedom are under threat. This bill requires local school districts to adopt policies that best serve and represent their own communities. Some may say that this bill represents governmental overreach. I would argue that this bill limits governmental overreach by putting the choice and decision into the hands of the locally elected community members who know best how to serve their schools and community. By allowing the school board to have final say in whether to remove a challenged book, this allows the community to come together and decide as a group instead of allowing a small number of loud bigoted people to ban and censor books from school libraries without democratic process.

Thank you for your time.