

Submitter: Elisabeth Genly

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Thank you for the opportunity to indicate my strong support for SB 1098. As a parent, and as a retired educator, I feel very very strongly that children need exposure to a variety of viewpoints and experiences in order to become well-rounded citizens and to develop empathy for people in situations far different from their own. Further, it is crucial that LGBTQ children, differently-abled children, children who are persons of color (members of the global majority) also see themselves represented in books. Therefore, I support the provisions of SB 1098, which Prohibit the exclusion of certain school library books based on the topic or author of the book, prohibits discrimination when selecting or retaining school library materials, textbooks or instructional materials or when developing and implementing a curriculum. It also directs the Department of Education to provide technical assistance for school library programs relating to book challenges. It requires challenges to be reviewed only if submitted by parents, guardians, and staff from within the school district. And, finally, it prohibits removal of materials until review process is finalized.

Thank you,
Elisabeth Genly,
Forest Grove, OR