

April 29, 2025

Senator Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee:

I urge you to support SB 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.

Many of the letters of opposition express concern that this bill takes away authority from parents to guide their children's reading. Parents have had and will continue to have the right to opt their child out of reading books they believe are not appropriate and will get an alternative book assigned. Parents have had and will continue to have the authority to guide their child in selecting free reading materials in the school library that align with their values. Parents should not have the right to determine what other parents' children can or cannot read.

This bill protects the rights of parents and children looking for books that reflect their diverse lived experiences and explore new ideas, ensuring those books aren't removed from curriculum or the school library by others.

Allowing all children to have access to diverse, high-quality books is essential for building a strong foundation for lifelong learning, critical thinking, opportunity, and engagement. Every child deserves the freedom to explore books that inspire them, challenge them, and help them see the world—and themselves—in new ways.

SB 1098 will protect students in our state from book bans and ensure that our students have access to books that inspire them to be successful, lifelong learners. Please support SB 1098.

Sincerely,

Katie Anderson