

Submitter:

Barbara Gaines

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1098

BOOK BANS ARE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH, both nationally and in Oregon. Consistent with national trends, the books under attack in Oregon are often by or about people of color, women, and LGBTQ+ people. When books and materials are banned or censored because of such categories, this erases the history and lived experiences of marginalized groups, leading to continuing or even increasing intolerance and economic hardship for those targeted.

Although existing laws require an inclusive selection of instructional materials and generally prohibit discrimination in education, no current Oregon law explicitly prohibits the censorship of materials based on the “protected class” identities involved in the material’s content or creation. We need SB1098 to legally define what shall NOT be used as a screening criteria.