

Submitter: Kaitlynn Edrington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I have worked across libraries for ten years across the state of Oregon. I support SB 1098; this measure would prevent book bans and other forms of censorship in Oregon public schools based on content of race, national origin, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, physical or mental disability, military status or marital or family status.

Clear patterns of restricted access that feature diverse identities immediately communicates to children and teens that those identities are not acceptable, and should not exist within public spaces. We need it defined as what should not be used as screening criteria, and to minimize misinformation regarding the contents of these books. Instead, we need to continue to uphold and protect the freedom to read. Reading materials should not trap communities in echo chambers; it should open readers' minds to empathy and strengthen community ties. I am in support SB 1098 to continue to uphold freedom of reading and to promote empathy through diverse choices.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this measure.