

Submitter: Amy Wheeler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I am writing in support of SB1098. I believe it is essential that school libraries provide an array of reading materials with a wide variety of viewpoints. Libraries should be places where children can read and learn and laugh and play and soar. I have read some of the testimony in opposition to this bill and I think the people who oppose this bill are not familiar with how school libraries choose and purchase books. I work at a Middle School library. As a public school library in Oregon, our budget for purchasing books is much lower than it should be and my library has a finite space. Because of these factors, I purchase books that are appropriate for Middle Schoolers and ones that I think they will be interested in. I do not have the funds nor the space to buy books that are more suited for High Schoolers or Elementary students. My fellow librarians in my school district also purchase age appropriate books for their schools. As I understand it, this bill does not say we HAVE to purchase certain books, it just says we can not discriminate based on our own personal beliefs and prejudices.