

Submitter: Jane Nichols
On Behalf Of: SB1098
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098
House Committee on Education
RE: Support for SB 1098

05/30/2025

House Committee on Education,

My name is Jane Nichols from Corvallis, OR and I am writing to 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.

Oregon has experienced an increased number of efforts to ban books featuring members of the LGBTQIA2S+, Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color communities. This is part of a broader effort to restrict student access to materials depicting the positive contributions members of these communities have contributed to Oregon and the U.S.

Passage of this bill would create a statewide standard ensuring freedom of access to that information to students, librarians, and educators. Passage would ensure students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves.

As a member of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, I would have benefited from access to books and other materials depicting this community. I support this bill so others can have access to all histories and cultures and so they are not limited by changing political whims.

SB 1098 protects student's right to see themselves represented in the books, materials and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story today. I urge you to vote YES to support and advance SB 1098.

Jane Nichols
Corvallis OR