



Representative Hoa Nguyen
Oregon House District 48

SB 1098 - FREEDOM TO READ ACT

4/30 House Education Committee

My name is State Representative Hoa Nguyen, and I proudly represent House District 48, which includes outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County.

I strongly support SB 1098, the Freedom to Read Act. I have worked in Oregon's education system for nearly 20 years, and throughout that time, I've seen how access to a broad range of reading materials supports student growth, not only in literacy, but in curiosity, confidence, and classroom engagement.

In recent years, we've seen a sharp increase in efforts to restrict books in school and library settings. In 2023 alone, the American Library Association documented more than 3,300 book challenges, a record high. These trends are concerning, not just because of the number of books being targeted, but because they place added pressure on educators and librarians who are trained to select materials that are age-appropriate, educational, and aligned with curriculum standards.

Families and communities count on teachers and school staff to make thoughtful choices about what students read. SB 1098 helps preserve that trust by ensuring decisions about instructional materials are made through a transparent, professional process, not reactive to shifting political or social pressures.

At its core, this bill is about supporting the essential mission of education: helping students think critically, explore ideas, and develop into informed, capable adults. When students have access to a variety of books, they read more, they engage more, and they learn more. That's something I think we can all support.

I urge your support for SB 1098, and I appreciate your time and consideration.