

Maya Bryant  
House Committee on Education  
RE: Support for SB 1098  
4/23/25

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the committee,

My name is Maya Bryant and I am from Portland, OR and a student at Willamette University. 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.

I was a student in the Portland Public School District for 12 years and know how important it is for our youth to see themselves represented in the stories they read. Representation is crucial because it tells young people they are normal, not alone, and deserve to be heard. It also ensures students have the freedom to access accurate and representative information in books.

I have two-moms and rarely see my family dynamic represented in the books I read. Stories like Tango Makes Three, about a two-dad family, are frequently banned in other states. Having access to books like this was important for me as a young person to understand that others had unique families too. And, for those with traditional families, it answered their questions about my family. I urge you to support this bill, as it is increasingly important to protect young people from censorship during this time. Opposing this bill denies students the right to academic freedom.

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. We urge you to vote YES to support and advance SB 1098.

Sincerely,  
Maya Bryant