

Tyler Dickinson  
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 Tyler Dickinson. I am from Bend, Oregon, and I am a current 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.

As a queer student who grew up in Oregon, I can attest to the importance of having access to age appropriate queer literature during my time in K-12 schools. Providing accessible literature from diverse backgrounds and perspectives is critical to fostering inclusive education environments. Growing up as a member of the LGBTQ+ community can be incredibly isolating, and having access to literature with characters that resemble students' own identities can provide comfort and send a message of acceptance.

This bill is more important now than ever, as marginalized identities are constantly under attack in the media and by the federal administration. Oregon students deserve to know that they live in a state where they are affirmed in their identities and that their right to engage with a diversity of viewpoints is protected. Banning books is not only undemocratic but also counterproductive to the educational mission of our schools. If students cannot critically engage with diverse, age-appropriate literature, they are robbed of the academic freedom afforded to students can engage in a larger marketplace of ideas. By passing this bill, you will protect Oregon students' rights to an inclusive learning environment and academic freedom.

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

Tyler Dickinson  
Bend, OR