

Riley Moore
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 Riley Moore and I am 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.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that feature LGBTQIA2S+, Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color and restrict access for students to understand the positive contributions of individuals of marginalized identities who have contributed to our society. This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information, for example librarians and educators. It also ensures students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves.

I myself am from Georgia, and I have personally witnessed how a lack of education has endangered queer children and adults. A lack of education allows misinformation to run rampant and allows those who have violent or angry feelings towards LGBTQIA2S+ to continue to feel validated in their anger. If more people are educated, or even if they have the freedom to read opposing views, they can be much better armed against misinformation, or dangerous talking points. Banning books takes away from American citizens' right to freedom of speech, and prevents youth from developing their own fully informed opinions. I hope that Oregon can continue to be a safe state for individuals of all identities, and I hope that it will not fall to the same hateful rhetoric that has plagued the south.

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.

Thank you,
Riley Moore