

## SB 1098 - Ender Testimony in Support

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

My name is Althea Ender. I am from Portland. I am a Director on the David Douglas School Board however my testimony today is my own opinion and not an official statement of that Board. I am here in support of SB 1098.

Making clear protections for library and course materials increases the opportunities for all students. For that reason, David Douglas School District has policies consistent with this bill. But paying attention to our own district is not enough when all school districts face these challenges and have students who directly interact with our diverse student body. When government bodies entertain race and gender-based content challenges it sends a message to students that the histories and perspectives of racialized and stereotyped groups are not valid and are open for attack.

When targeted censorship restricts access to learning about marginalized identities, it is not just those without access who suffer. Our unique and diverse students face discrimination from students of other school districts. Ignorance fuels hate. If young people throughout our state can't even learn second-hand about people with different backgrounds than their own, we have no right to expect these hate-based incidents at our schools to decrease. This bill makes clear that discrimination will not be tolerated in our textbooks and library shelves, just as it is not tolerated in our classrooms or on our football fields.

When I think about book and course material challenges lately, I think about young people in my life with connections to the Klamath Tribes. Even when I am looking for materials to support their and my understanding of Native American history and culture, they are hard to find. We do not need **out of district groups** and **discriminatory challenges** making access to critical learning more difficult.

We are preparing our students to be successful in the real world - including the full spectrum of people and their identities. This bill adds protections to help us do our work. I urge you to vote YES to support and advance SB 1098.