

Submitter: Calli Ross
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098
Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson,

My name is Calli Ross and I'm here in strong support of SB 1098, which prohibits discrimination in the selection of school library materials, textbooks, instructional resources, and curriculum development.

Let's be real: what we're discussing is whether LGBTQIA+ characters and perspectives are allowed to exist in school materials on the same terms as cisgender, heterosexual ones. We are not talking about graphic content or age-inappropriate materials—we're talking about equal representation. A book with a same-gender couple going to prom, holding hands, or navigating a relationship should not be treated differently than a book where a straight couple does the same.

This bill isn't about pushing an agenda—it's about ensuring that all students see themselves reflected in the stories and lessons they learn from. When we exclude or censor materials simply because they include LGBTQIA+ characters or themes, we are sending a message that those students—and their families—don't belong.

Discrimination has no place in Oregon's public schools—not in policy, not in curriculum, and certainly not on library shelves. SB 1098 helps make that principle real and enforceable.

I urge your support.

Thank you.
Calli Ross