

Submitter: Rowan Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Rowan Johnson

House Committee on Education

RE: Support for SB 1098

5/3/25

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the committee,
My name is Rowan Johnson from Bend Senior High School.

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. Without the freedom to express ourselves, and read literature at our own will,
all

individuality will be stripped from us as a youth.