

Submitter: Elisabeth Anderson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098
Representative Courtney Neron and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Elisabeth Anderson. I am a former teacher, work as an Educational Assistant Substitute in the Corvallis Public School District and volunteer at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

I urge you to support SB 1098, also known as the Freedom to Read bill because freedom of speech is a first amendment right and the health of our democracy depends on an educated public and a state where ideas are openly disseminated, discussed and debated.

All people, including youth, have the right to access age-appropriate information and make up their own minds.

Students should be able to see people like themselves represented in the books they read. When schools start banning books that students identify with, they can feel personally targeted by their school administrators. Youth of all ages within the public school system should always be permitted to learn, in age-appropriate ways, the values that promote diversity, equality, inclusion, and the belonging of all people.

Please vote yes and support our students and their education.