

Submitter:

Jonathan Hill

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1098

Hello,

My name is Jonathan Hill and I am an author, a cartoonist, and an educator. I'm also a member of the organization Authors Against Book Bans. I'm writing in strong support for SB 1098 and prohibiting book banning from our school libraries.

It's simple: Other parents shouldn't have the ability to limit what books and materials other children have access too. If a parent disagrees with the content of a certain book, that's a decision and a discussion they can have with their child. It shouldn't be a decision that should be made for all the other children in that community. And let's be honest, the books they will most often want to ban are stories from people from communities that aren't part of the dominant culture. Book banning is a way to remove access to those communities. By protecting access to those books and materials by prohibiting discrimination, you also keep those communities protected.

In my experience as an author and a teacher, I have seen firsthand the impact of stories and how they allow people to find themselves, develop empathy, explore worlds beyond their own, and make sense of the world through books. As the world gets more confusing and scary for kids - and adults - we should be fighting vehemently to protect resources that help us make sense of it and can help us connect to one another.

Books to that.