

Submitter: Carrie Tillotson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Dear members of the Oregon House Committee on Education,

My name is Carrie Tillotson and I'm writing to you as a lifelong Oregon resident, a parent, a school volunteer, a youth track coach, and an award-winning author of books for young readers. Before my current endeavors, I also worked as a biostatistician researching children's health care services and unmet healthcare needs. I have dedicated my life and work to raising, caring for, protecting, educating, and entertaining Oregon's youth.

I do this work because I care deeply about children and their health and wellbeing, including the freedom to read. According to PEN America, there were 10,046 book bans in the 2023-2024 school year, and have been increasing in recent years. Studies have shown that book bans negatively impact youth mental health. When the ability to access books that feature people who look like you, feel like you, and experience the world as you do is cut off, children suffer.

All of Oregon's children deserve to have access to books that they can relate to; that expand their horizons into how other people experience the world around them; and that give them accurate and timely information. While every parent has the right to make decisions about which books are appropriate for their children and families, no parent or other individual has the right to decide which books should be available or unavailable for all children.

Please join me in protecting our children's health and wellbeing and the freedom to read by supporting Senate Bill 1098.

Sincerely,
Carrie Tillotson