

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Austyn McNew from Grants Pass and I am writing to **urge you to support Senate Bill 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.

As a public educator of 13 years, I've seen firsthand the positive impact diverse books can have when read by a student who needs to see themselves. Those same diverse books give other students windows into another's perspective which is an incredibly important skill in a wide world of cultures of beliefs.

SB1098 does not change any individual parent's or guardian's right to monitor or oversee what their own children read or view. It does protect the rights of ALL parents and guardians for their children to have access to diverse representation in materials and history taught in the school setting.

SB 1098 protects students' right to see themselves represented in the books, materials and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people.

Thank you,

Austyn McNew

Grants Pass