

Submitter: Robin Lee  
On Behalf Of: myself  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I oppose this bill. I opposed the iteration in SB 1583 last year. Children don't belong to the government. Their parents and/or guardians bear the first line of responsibility for raising them to become healthy and productive adults. I'm writing at the 11th hour because there are far too many bills on the table for any one individual to review, ponder, and keep track of when they'll be presented for a vote. (that in itself is a matter for redress!)

This bill is designed to strip parents' rights to have oversight over materials their children have access to. That is patently wrong. I strongly oppose taking authority away from parents and local school boards. I disagree that principals, teachers or school librarians choose what to put on library shelves without local parental and citizen input. The duty of public education is to teach basic fundamentals and prepare children to learn to read and write, do math, assimilate history, think for themselves, and as they mature, plan careers. Such knowledge and skills may be presented from many points of view. As perhaps featuring books on industry or farming or nature according to locale. Parents and school boards should have the liberty and authority to select materials by authors who craft instruction with focus on children's local environments and social settings, thus stimulating children to read based on what they relate to. As they mature, the selections should expand to introduce a rural kid to city life and vice versa. And a migrant kid to a third-generation citizen, etc.

Oregon's students are failing at terrible rates and are no longer prepared for self-sufficiency upon graduation. The basic "3 Rs" have been neglected in favor of gender ideology. Textbooks should be selected with an eye to remediating failure rates, not proposing that they're born in wrong bodies. Our children deserve better than they're receiving. Input from parents, teachers, and students themselves must be allowed district by district and not solely at State level.

ANOTHER EGREGIOUS FEATURE of this bill is the emergency clause. Once signed it is not merely sped into law: the clause also forecloses Oregonians' ability to try to give their fellow citizens the chance to approve or disapprove it via referendum. But that's your selfish, abusive power-grab in action. Another violation of our founders' intent that we don't bow to dictators and tyrants.

As proposed, this bill will do great harm. Please vote NO.