

To: The Senate Committee on Education

Re: Senate Bill 1098 – Protect the Freedom to Read

From: Michele Burke, Reference and Instruction Librarian

Date: April 30, 2025

I support Senator Lew Frederick's proposed bill. It is essential that we protect intellectual freedom and our students' first amendment rights.

Reading through the opposing testimony, I must agree that it makes sense for parents to be discerning and have conversations about what is read within their families and households. However, it does not make sense to dictate those choices for everyone else.

It is crucial for students to have access to a variety of perspectives. A minority of parents should not be allowed to dictate book choices for everyone.

Thank you.