

Grace Parry
House Committee on Education
RE: Support for SB 1098
4/23/25

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the committee,

My name is Grace Parry and I am a student from Willamette University and a resident of Salem. I went through the Salem-Keizer school district. I am writing to urge you to support SB 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.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that feature LGBTQIA2S+, Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color. As well as a general erasure of historical events. Topics or individuals and restrict access for students to understand the positive contributions of individuals of marginalized identities who have contributed to our society. This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information, for example librarians and educators. It also ensures students have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves.

I love reading and appreciated having books with themes surrounding LGBTQIA2S+ as well as people of colors experiences when I was in the Salem-Keizer K-12 school district. I believe it is important to have books for all children to identify with. It is also equally important to have children read and learn about people's experiences who are different from their own. I support SB 1098 because it removes barriers from children's learning about the world. I believe that if SB 1098 was to pass children in Oregon would grow up to be more empathetic/understanding, intellectual, and well-rounded members of the society.

SB 1098 protects student's right to see themselves represented in the books, materials and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people. Thank you for taking the time to hear my story today. I urge you to vote YES to support and advance SB 1098.

Thank you,

Grace Perry