

Name/Organization: Alaina Carter Elementary School Librarian

Bill Number: H5488

Viewpoint: Support or For

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the School Libraries Act H5488. Our school libraries are essential resources for all Rhode Island students, and every child deserves equitable access to them as centers for learning, discovery, and meaningful engagement.

As a certified school librarian, I don't just manage books—I collaborate with classroom teachers and specialists to co-design lessons and create opportunities for students to think critically, explore their interests, and develop essential research and digital literacy skills. I work closely with our art, music, and physical education teachers to integrate literacy, movement, and creativity across disciplines, helping students make meaningful, lasting connections.

I've introduced students to coding and computational thinking through hands-on projects that combine storytelling, problem-solving, and technology. I've supported research units across grade levels, guided students in media literacy and responsible online behavior, and ensured every child has access to the resources they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

School libraries provide a safe, inclusive space for all students, and school librarians are the guides who help them navigate a complex information landscape. I want our school libraries to remain open and thriving for all current and future students, no matter their ZIP code or socioeconomic background.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support H5488 and ensure that strong school libraries and certified school librarians remain in every Rhode Island school.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Alaina Carter