

I am writing in 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 succeed 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 am urging you to support H5488, which will guarantee that we keep strong school libraries and certified school librarians in every school across Rhode Island.

-Alaina Carter