

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the School Libraries Act H5488. Our school libraries are essential resources for all Rhode Island students, and students should have equitable access to them as the center for learning and discovery in every school. I want school libraries to remain open for all current and future students, no matter the socioeconomic setting, and, for that reason, I am urging you to support H5488, which will guarantee that we keep our school libraries and school librarians in every school.

Additional things you might not know about school libraries (in no particular order):

- Many have the best wifi signal in their aging school buildings because of the institutional history of computers being available there.
- One of the few air-conditioned rooms in our aging school buildings, big enough to accommodate a whole class, where all students have access.
- School libraries enable students to nurture and explore their interests, fostering lifelong learning.
- School libraries often act as a haven for students, a place to eat lunch, a place to work, a reward for independent reading, a place for sensory breaks for those experiencing overwhelm, and SO much more.
- School libraries are where the big printers are, and a teacher having to plan around which days students will have access to print their work in the library distracts from more important prep work.
- School libraries are where students do make up work, enabling teachers to continue instruction with the rest of the class.
- School librarians are often the first line of defense in technology troubleshooting.
- School librarians collaborate and reinforce literacy skills and the subject matter that classroom teachers cover.
- Reading fiction creates empathy, students are viewing a story through someone else's eyes.
- School libraries are places where students can do community service, shelving, or sorting books.
- School librarians must have a master's degree in library studies as well as their teaching certification.

Thank you for your consideration,

Greer Monaghan
Scituate Middle-High School Librarian
East Greenwich Resident