

March 10, 2026

Re: Support for H7417, the Save Rhode Island School Libraries Act

House Education Committee

Dear Representatives Kislak, Read, Furtado, Cotter, Cortvriend, Shallcross Smith, Noret, McNamara, Cruz, and Casimiro,

I am in support of bill H7417, the Save Rhode Island School Libraries Act. School librarians are essential to every students' academic and personal growth. I was the School Library Media Program coordinator at the University of Rhode Island and had the opportunity to observe my pre-service school librarians work with students and cooperating school librarians at all grade levels in schools across the state. I recall many high-quality standards based lessons and curriculum developed by the school librarians that addressed reading comprehension, reading enjoyment, information literacy and research skills, media literacy, digital citizenship, and technology skills. All these skills are critical for student success and as contributing citizens in a global world. In RI, not every student or school has a certified school librarian and/or dedicated library space. Every student should have access to a certified school librarian, a library space, resources, and instruction provided by these unsung heroes.

Thank you for supporting Act H7417.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Moen

Professor Emerita

University of Rode Island

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