

My name is Gabriella Carbone, and I am a student in Rhode Island. I am writing to support the Save Rhode Island's School Libraries Act (H 7417). School libraries and librarians matter a lot to students, and I hope you will consider how important they are to our learning.

At my school, the library is one of the only places where students can go to read, study, and work on assignments in a quiet space. It's also a place where students can ask for help when they don't know where to start on a project or need help finding information. Having a librarian there makes a big difference because they actually know how to help us find good sources and understand what we're reading.

Students today are expected to do a lot of research online, but it's not always easy to tell what information is trustworthy. Librarians help teach us how to figure out what sources are reliable and how to do research the right way. Those are skills we will need not just in school but later in life too.

Libraries also help students get interested in reading. A librarian can recommend books that students might actually enjoy, and that can make a big difference for someone who thinks they don't like reading. Sometimes students just need someone to help them find the right book.

Not all students have books, internet access, or a quiet place to study at home. The school library helps make sure every student has access to those things. That's why it's important that every school has a library and a librarian.

Please support the Save Rhode Island's School Libraries Act so students across Rhode Island can continue to have access to school libraries and librarians. They play an important role in helping students learn and succeed.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and listen to students.