

Rhode Island Senate Education Committee  
Rhode Island General Assembly, 82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

March 10, 2026

Testimony in Support of House bill Number H 7417 - The Save Rhode Island School Libraries Act

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to support House bill H 7417 - The Save Rhode Island School Libraries Act

I support bill H 7417 because I know the value of my role as a school librarian. Beyond modeling a love of stories and information, I also teach fundamental skills for members of today's society, including digital citizenship, media literacy, and critical thinking.

When I student-taught at the elementary level in 2011, my mentor was at the same location every day, working closely with everyone else in the building. That's how I thought my job would be when I graduated. I thought I would have time to deliver an information literacy curriculum, maintain a vibrant collection, partner with teachers on projects, and provide extracurricular opportunities like book clubs and interest-driven research.

Unfortunately, the BEP had changed around that time; staffing requirements no longer existed, and over the past 15 years, school library programs have been decimated. Most elementary librarians are assigned to at least two buildings, acting as prep coverage versus as a resource for students and classroom teachers.

In a world of fake news, propaganda, AI, screen addiction, and falling ELA test scores, school librarians are vital.

I urge you to vote in favor of bill H 7147.

Sincerely,

Meredith Moore  
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Senate District 4