



**To:** House Finance Committee  
**From:** Jeremy Sencer, RIFTHP Field Representative  
**Date:** April 8, 2026  
**Re:** **State Aid to Libraries – Construction Reimbursement  
Testimony in Support of H 8168 (Cortvriend, et al.)**

On behalf of RIFTHP, I submit testimony in support of H 8168, legislation that updates state reimbursement caps for library construction and renovation projects to better reflect current costs.

Public libraries play an important role in supporting students, educators, and communities across Rhode Island. However, reimbursement caps established several years ago no longer align with current construction costs, making it difficult for municipalities to advance planned projects or address facility needs.

H 8168 provides an updated framework that allows reimbursement levels to better match today's cost environment. By adjusting these caps and applying them to ongoing and upcoming projects, the bill helps ensure that municipalities can make necessary improvements while maintaining predictable state support. This includes projects related to accessibility, modernization, and expanded community use.

From a fiscal perspective, aligning reimbursement caps with actual costs supports more effective planning and reduces the likelihood of project delays or funding gaps. Modern library facilities also contribute to broader community needs, including student learning, workforce access, and public services.

For these reasons, RIFTHP urges the Committee to support H 8168.