

## Steven Sepe

---

**From:** Eloise Narrigan <narrigan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 10:57 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. Blazewski, Christopher R.; Rep. Lombardi, John J.  
**Subject:** Testimony in favor of Freedom to Read Act H5726

Dear Government Committee Clerk Steven Sepe,

Thank you for accepting my testimony FOR the Freedom to Read Act (H5726).

My name is Eloise Narrigan. I am an author and illustrator living and working in Providence. I am also a member of the Community Libraries of Providence (CLPVD) board. Libraries and access to books are deeply important to me.

I am writing in full support of the Freedom to Read Act, H5726.

I had mistakenly believed that book bans are a small nuisance, and even bring positive attention and publicity to targeted books. I've learned recently how impactful book bans and challenges can be.

Here are the impacts that book bans and challenges have:

- Limited school and library resources are tied up with bans and challenges, including frivolous legal action.
- Students and other readers with limited access to books have their access restricted further. Few readers will (or can) simply go buy their own copy when a library removes a book.
- Teachers, librarians, students, and authors are subject to harassment, including doxxing (the reveal of personal and private information) from fringe groups that challenge books nationwide.
- Libraries, schools, and bookstores become reluctant to buy books that have been banned elsewhere, that are from creators who have experienced book bans, or that touch on the same topics as banned books.
- In turn, publishers are hesitant to acquire new books that seem similar to banned books. They hesitate to work with creators whose books have been banned, or even creators from similar backgrounds. The effects of book bans and challenges ripple outward, chilling access to and creation of new books.

The Freedom to Read Act establishes a common-sense policy for challenging and reviewing library materials while protecting Rhode Island's librarians, teachers, students, and authors from these impacts.

In addition, passing this bill in Rhode Island will set a national example of how other states can preserve their libraries and protect their librarians, teachers, students, and authors.

Again, I write in full support of H5726, the Freedom to Read Act.

Thank you for your time.

Eloise Narrigan