

P.O. Box 6765
Providence, RI 02940

rilibraries.org

Executive Board

President
Benjamin Hanley

Vice-President/President Elect
Kiki Butler

Immediate Past President
Beatrice R. Pulliam

Treasurer
Dave Bartos

Secretary
Jo Knapp

ALA Councilor
Catherine Damiani

Members-at-Large
Katherine Boden
Lisa Richter

NELA Representative
Kim Usselman

SLRI President
Esther Wolk

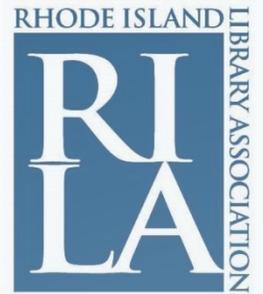
Paraprofessional Representative
Lynda LaCava

To: Senator Hanna M. Gallo, Chair
RI Senate Education Committee

From: Esther Wolk, SLRI President

Supporting bill 2026 -- S 2016

Date: 3/4/2026



Dear Senator Hanna M. Gallo and members of the RI Senate Education Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the School Librarians of Rhode Island (SLRI) in support of bill 2026 -- S 2016, An Act Relating to Education - Curriculum. As school librarians we are trained to teach Media Literacy as part of our education preparation program for School Library Media certification. In addition, during the 2024-25 school year approximately 35 RI school librarians enhanced their ability to teach Media Literacy by completing a 10 week Media Literacy Education professional development program called Empowering All Students through Media Decoding from Project Look Sharp of Ithaca College. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) identified Project Look Sharp as a quality Media Literacy Education program and collaborated with them to offer this training to school librarians through an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant.

We feel that school librarians are the obvious choice to teach Media Literacy to K-12 students in RI. Media literacy skills are part of our [RIDE approved standards based library curriculum](#), the [AASL National School Library Standards for Learners](#). We request that school librarians be added to the text of this bill. We collaborate with classroom teachers as part of our jobs and a collaborative effort between social studies teachers and school librarians would make the Media Literacy curriculum much stronger.

Please vote in favor of bill 2026 -- S 2016, An Act Relating to Education - Curriculum after adding school librarians to the text of the bill, so RI's students will be educated in Media Literacy and have the skills to navigate the media that is a part of their everyday lives.

Sincerely,

Esther Wolk, MLIS, MSEd
SLRI President