

Dear Senate Education Committee Members,

My name is Ben Revkin and I live and work in East Greenwich. My state senator is Bridget Valverde. I am writing in support of S 2078, which would enshrine public school library spaces and librarians in all schools.

As a teacher at the high school, I see firsthand the importance of our library and librarian for our students. Not only does the space afford students a place to freely share and collaborate on research projects, but it also has a podcast room, a large digital collection, plenty of fiction and nonfiction reading material, and more. It serves as a central hub for the sharing of ideas, presentations, meetings, and activities. It is a place both academic and social, where students who need an escape or a place to wind down can curl up with a book. Our librarian is fantastic and helps students find materials, properly format their research, and she inspires students with ideas and motivation.

I want that for all schools in RI. Too often librarians and library programs are the first on the chopping block when budgets are tight. They are as integral to a school community as other teachers. The school funding formula should also incorporate permanent librarians into the equation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ben Revkin