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Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 7:22 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Cc: Ginny Kennedy <ginnykennedy@glocschools.org>
Subject: School Libraries Act S2078

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been an elementary school teacher in RI for 36 years, and a school librarian for 13. In my time in education, I've noticed a marked change in our students.

As a classroom teacher, I would read aloud to my students daily, and we all looked forward to that part of the day more than any other. That love of literature was the reason I chose to get my Master's in Library/Media.

In my first few years as librarian, while I taught students how to use the library efficiently, how to access technology safely and efficiently, and how to become skilled researchers, it was the exposure to literature through read aloud, that again, brought my students the most joy, and increases their desire to read independently.

In the last few years, however, students ability to attend to and enjoy books has greatly decreased. I think there are two factors contributing to this phenomenon. The first being their early exposure to screens, and the second the lack of classroom time being dedicated to student interactions with lengthy texts.

The only place most children can get access to quality time with actual books is the school library.

All students deserve access to well-run, and maintained school libraries with qualified librarians to provide students with the highest caliber interactions with books.

Please pass the School Libraries Act S2078.

Sincerely,

Ginny Kennedy

Library/Media Specialist

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Sent from Gmail Mobile