

Good Morning,

My name is Grace Fitch, and I am writing in strong support of the Save RI School Libraries Act S2078.

School libraries and librarians are essential to student learning, intellectual growth, and equitable access to information. Libraries are the institution upon which all education is built. In order to learn, young people need access and encouragement to access libraries as the hearth of their personal growth.

I am an English Teacher at Archie R. Cole Middle School, in East Greenwich, where our librarian is currently functioning with no librarian. In my classroom, I teach the purpose and importance of reading, yet my students are unable to access independent reading books easily.

In addition, certified school librarians play a vital role in teaching information literacy, guiding students in evaluating sources, a skill which is becoming indispensable in the digital world. Without consistent standards and protections, library programs are often among the first to face cuts, disproportionately impacting students in under-resourced districts. This will have immense implications for our students.

The Save RI School Libraries Act would help guarantee that students across Rhode Island have access to professionally staffed libraries and the resources they need to thrive. This legislation supports educational equity, strengthens academic outcomes, and affirms our commitment to preparing students for college, careers, and informed civic engagement.

I urge lawmakers to pass the Save RI School Libraries Act S2078 and ensure that every student in Rhode Island has access to a strong, fully supported school library program.

Thank you for your time and care,

Grace Fitch